



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-144
Friday
28 July 1989

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-144

CONTENTS

28 July 1989

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Technical Meetings of ACC Trade Ministries End [INA]	1
ACC Ministers Begin Meetings in Baghdad 26 Jul	1
Finance Ministers Meet [INA]	1
Finance Ministers' Statement [Baghdad Radio]	1
Ministers Endorse Proposals [Baghdad Radio]	1
Meet With Iraq's Ramadan [Baghdad Radio]	1
Ramadan Receives Trade Ministers [Baghdad Radio]	2
Industry Ministers Sign Minutes [INA]	2
Lebanon Tripartite Committee Meeting Slated [MAP]	2
UMA Follow-Up Committee Begins Rabat Meeting [MAP]	2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on Shamir-Al-Tarifi Meeting [WAKH]	3
Al-Tarifi Comments [WAKH]	3
Further on PLO Approval [KUNA]	3
Commentary Calls U.S. 'Enemy' of Palestinians [Baghdad Voice of the PLO]	3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

National Assembly Ratifies Information Law [Algiers TV]	5
Bendjedid Receives French Finance Minister [APS]	5

Egypt

POW Negotiations With Iran 'Stopped' [AL-WAFD 26 Jul]	5
Editorial on 'Promoting African Solidarity' [AL-AKHBAR 26 Jul]	5
Mubarak Receives Greetings From Supreme Soviet [MENA]	6
IMF Executive Director on Economic Policy [MENA]	6
Plan To Sell Failing Public Companies To Workers [AL-WAFD 26 Jul]	6
Oil Fields Begin Production; Gas Exported [AL-JUMHURIYAH 26 Jul]	7

Libya

Paper Reports 'Secret Contacts' With U.S. [London AL-SHARQ ALAWSAT 26 Jul]	7
Aviation Official Briefs Media on DC-10 Crash [JANA]	7
Data on Injured Cited [JANA]	8
Jallud Addresses Arab University Students [JANA]	8
Higher Education Protocol Signed With Nigeria [JANA]	8

Mauritania

Senegal Charged With Planning 'Offensive' [Dakar PANA]	8
'No Unusual Troop Movement' [BBC]	9
Bar Association 'Regrets' Amnesty Statement [Dakar PANA]	9

Morocco

'Arafat Arrives, Received by King Hassan 28 Jul [Rabat Radio]	9
---	---

Sudan

Talks With SPLM Slated for 1st Week in Aug [MENA]	10
Mali's Traore To Mediate [Dakar PANA]	10
Income Tax Structure Adjusted Upward [SUNA]	10

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Holds Talks With Perez de Cuellar [APS]	11
SDAR Ministry on U.S. Congressional Motion [APS]	11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Foreign Minister, Delegation Leave for U.S. Visit [WAKH]	12
--	----

Kuwait

Foreigners Allowed Full Ownership of Businesses [ARAB TIMES 24 Jul]	12
Foreign Minister on Turkish-Bulgarian Crisis [KUNA]	12

Saudi Arabia

'Rumors' of King Fahd's Illness Denied [SPA]	12
King Fahd To Visit United States 14 Sep [SPA]	12

IRAQ

Geneva UN Envoy on Prisoners, Resolution 598 [Voice of the Masses]	13
Syria-Iran Role in Lebanon Criticized [AL-THAWRAH 23 Jul]	13
Transport Minister Meets Turkish Finance Minister [INA]	14
New Officials Sworn In Before President 25 Jul [INA]	14
Saddam Chairs Meeting of Army General Command [Voice of the Masses]	14
Industry Minister Inaugurates Steel Project [INA]	14

ISRAEL

Abu-Sharif Hints at 'Additional Concessions' [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Jul]	15
Peres Sees 'Positive' Side to 'Arafat Remarks [Jerusalem Radio]	15
Olmert on 'Arafat's 'Gimmick' [Jerusalem Radio]	16
Further on Olmert's Views [Jerusalem Radio]	17
Shamir Attacks 'Defeatists,' Rejects Compromise [Jerusalem Radio]	17
Rabin Interviewed on Talks With Palestinians [Jerusalem TV]	18
Arens: Palestinian Support for PLO Limited [Jerusalem Radio]	22
General Staff To Pursue Submarine Project [Hamburg DPA]	23
1 Killed, 1 Wounded in Tulkarm; Curfew Imposed [Jerusalem Radio]	23
Hamas Patrols Maintain Order in Hebron Schools [HADASHOT 27 Jul]	24
Paper Reports PLO Drops Dinar in Transfers [AL HAMISHMAR 28 Jul]	24

JORDAN

Arabs Citizens Arrested in Israeli Dinar 'Plot' [WAKH]	25
Al-Nabulsi on Banks' Two-Price Foreign Currency [AL-DUSTUR 28 Jul]	25
Popular Democratic Party Reportedly Formed [Jerusalem TV]	25
Editorial Says Visas 'Helping Jordan Cope' [JORDAN TIMES 27 Jul]	25
Al-Qasim Receives Visiting CSSR Official [Amman Radio]	26

LEBANON

Israeli Troops Raid South; Seize Shi'ite Leader [VOM]	27
Further on Raid [AFP]	27
More on Abduction [AFP]	27
IRNA Reports Kidnapping	28
Amal Issues Statement [Beirut Radio]	28
Shi'ite Council Denounces Abduction [Beirut Radio]	28
Shelling Reported During Night of 'Insanity' [VOL]	28
7 Killed, 28 Wounded [VOL]	29
3 PFLP Members Said Killed in Firefight [VOM]	29
Attack on 'Agent' Patrol; Casualties Reported [Voice of National Resistance]	29
Abu-al-Lam' Comments on U.S. Official's Remarks [VOL]	29
Transfers in Army Command Reported [VOM]	29

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Interview on Middle East Cited [KUNA]	30
Cited on Egypt, Lebanon [Damascus Radio]	30
Government Reportedly Requests Chinese Missiles [Kuwait AL-QABAS 26 Jul]	31
Al-Zu'bi Receives Pakistani Minister 27 Jul [Damascus Radio]	31
Protocol Signed With Pakistan [Damascus Radio]	31
Cooperation Protocol Signed With Tunisia [Damascus Radio]	31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Wakil Wants U.S.-USSR Agreement for Peace [AFP]	32
Agreement on Soviet Grant in Aid Signed [Kabul Radio]	32
Najibullah Receives USSR Delegations [BAKHTAR]	32
Soviet POW Release Group Continues Visit [BAKHTAR]	33
Yasir 'Arafat Sends Message to Najibullah [BAKHTAR]	33
Regime Leaders Dispute, Karmal Return Rumored [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Jul]	33
Mujahidin Attack Convoy; Destroy 2 Tanks [Islamabad Radio]	33
Explosives Seized Outside Kabul [Kabul Radio]	33
BAKHTAR Reports on Recent Clashes	34
Monthly Casualty Figures for Kabul Reported [BAKHTAR]	34
Security Forces Capture Kabul 'Saboteur' Group [BAKHTAR]	34
Rabbani Cited on Rocket Attack Incident [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Jul]	34
Pakistani 'Spy' Addresses News Conference [BAKHTAR]	35
'Defeat' of Opposition Government Seen [BAKHTAR]	35
Rebel 'President' Mojaddedi on War, Outlook [Jeddah UKAZ 19 Jul]	35
VOA Interviews Extremist 'Ringleaders' [BAKHTAR]	37
Keshtmand Visits Damaged Kamal-Bagram Highway [BAKHTAR]	37
Council of Ministers Meets on Plan, Budget [Kabul Radio]	38
Keshtmand Interviewed on Economy [Kabul Radio]	39

India

Spokesman Confirms High-Level Talks With Sri Lanka [AFP]	40
No Troops To Land in Colombo [Delhi Radio]	41
Editorial on Government 'Petulance' [INDIAN EXPRESS 17 Jul]	41
Commentary on Government Position [Delhi International]	42
Spokesman: Prabhakaran's Death Not Confirmed [Delhi Radio]	43
Minister Criticizes Opposition Contact With U.S. [Delhi Radio]	43
Commentary on Nepal's 'China Card,' Security [Delhi International]	43
Afghanistan's 'Abdul Wakil Meets With Gandhi [Kabul Radio]	44
4 Killed, 12 Injured in Tripura Police Shooting [Delhi Radio]	44
V.P. Singh Rejects Charges Over Bofors Deal [Delhi Radio]	44
Pant Criticizes Opposition Stance [Delhi Radio]	44
Pant Says Agni Development 'Indigenous' [Delhi Radio]	45

Iran

Reportage on Presidential Election, Referendum	45
Larijani Assesses Elections [IRNA]	45
Election Arrangements Detailed [IRNA]	45
Election, Referendum Under Way [Tehran Radio]	46
IRNA Notes Start of Voting	46
Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Voter Turnout [Tehran Radio]	46
Ahmad Khomeyni Comments After Voting [Tehran TV]	47
Khamene'i Casts Vote [IRNA]	47
Candidates Cast Votes [IRNA]	47
Officials Cast Votes, Comment [Tehran Radio]	47
Musavi Interviewed on Polling [Tehran Radio]	48
Interior Minister Interviewed [Tehran TV]	48
Mohhtashemi on Situation at Polls [Tehran Radio]	49
Voting Extended 2 Hours [IRNA]	50
Musavi-Ardabili Gives Friday Prayers Sermons [Tehran Radio]	50
Attempt To Obtain Egyptian POW's Release Ends [IRNA]	50
Further on Visit of Pakistani Defense Official	51
Agreement on Defense Ties [IRNA]	51
Joint Military Commission Formed [IRNA]	51
Further on Shi'ite Leaders' Visit to Tehran [IRNA]	51

Maldives

President Interviewed on 1988 Coup Attempt [Jeddah 'UKAZ 20 Jul]	51
Iranian Foreign Deputy Minister Visits [Tehran Radio]	52

Nepal

Economic Cooperation Talks With Pakistan Scheduled [AFP]	52
Importation of Some Indian Publications Banned [AFP]	53
Arrest of 2 Nepali Congress Leaders Reported [Delhi Radio]	53

Pakistan

Judge Dismisses Fazle Haq's Petition on Remand [Islamabad Radio]	53
Minister Tells Senate About Defense Production [Islamabad Radio]	53
Bhutto Speaks on PLO, Nuclear, Afghan Issues [Islamabad Radio]	54
Domestic Satellite Station Inaugurated [DAWN 13 Jul]	54
Afghan Interim Government Chief Meets Yaqub Khan [Islamabad Radio]	54
Yaqub Khan Goes to Washington for Afghan Talks [Islamabad Radio]	54

Sri Lanka

'Further Action' Considered if No Indian Pullout [Colombo Radio]	54
Foreign Minister Invited to India for Talks [AFP]	55
Wijeratne Asks for 'Token' Withdrawal of PKF [Delhi Radio]	55
Minister Offers To Mediate [Delhi Radio]	55
Further Reportage on Curfew, Unrest in Cities	56
Troops Occupy Radio, TV Stations [AFP]	56
Curfew Ignored in Some Towns [AFP]	57
Two Killed Defying Curfew [AFP]	57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Technical Meetings of ACC Trade Ministries End
*JN2607184589 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT
26 Jul 89*

[Text] Baghdad, Jul. 26, INA—The expert-level technical meetings of the ministries of trade, economy and supply of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries were concluded today.

At the conclusion of three working sessions the experts approved the proposed agenda to be referred to the three-day ministerial meeting due on Thursday.

The agenda includes coordination among the council's countries in the trade fields and exportation and import programmes and defining their volumes in addition to the dynamism of the commodities that could be defended [as received] in the frame of collective deals.

ACC Ministers Begin Meetings in Baghdad 26 Jul

Finance Ministers Meet
*JN2607141889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT
26 Jul 89*

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The meetings of the finance ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] composed of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic began in Baghdad today.

In an opening speech, Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar said that the ACC finance ministers bear heavy responsibilities, considering that financial and economic issues are viewed as the mainstay of the ACC.

In the morning session the finance ministers of the four ACC member states reviewed the ACC's financial and monetary institutions. They also exchanged views and ideas on the relationship to be maintained between the ACC on the one hand and international organizations and economic groupings on the other to help serve objectives of the ACC.

Finance Ministers' Statement
*JN2607201489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 26 Jul 89*

[Text] The finance ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states have expressed their happiness over their first meeting in Baghdad, the city of victory and peace.

In a statement to INA, Egyptian Finance Minister Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz said that the meeting comes under the category of consultations and coordination among ACC member states to exchange views and ideas on the financial and economic policy to be pursued

by the ACC. He added that the meeting also seeks to enable the ministers to discuss international financial and economic issues and their effect on the ACC member states.

Jordanian Finance Minister Basil Jordanah affirmed the importance of discussing the financial and monetary policy, as well as the ACC's economic agreement, through organizing and standardizing economic ties among the ACC member states and also through creating a mechanism in economic relations among the ACC member states—a mechanism that would achieve their objectives.

'Alawi 'Abd-Rabbuh, finance minister of the Yemen Arab Republic, said that the meeting was held at the request of Iraq following the creation of the ACC so that consultations can be held, an understanding can be reached, and a unified working paper can be prepared by the ACC's finance ministries.

Ministers Endorse Proposals
*JN2707150989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 27 Jul 89*

[Text] The Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] finance ministers have endorsed proposals on the best financial and monetary policies to attain economic integration among Iraq, Jordan, Yemen [Arab Republic], and Egypt.

At the conclusion of their first meeting in Baghdad today, the ACC finance ministers agreed on the points of the ACC financial and monetary cooperation agreement, coordination among financial and monetary bodies in drawing up the ACC's economic and financial policies, and a formula to adjust the stands of the ACC states with the international bodies.

Meet With Iraq's Ramadan
*JN2707151889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 27 Jul 89*

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today the finance ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], who are meeting in Baghdad.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed the importance of expanding meetings between ministers and technicians and of continuing discussions to find formulas to implement the resolutions adopted by the ACC summit. He noted that ACC citizens and the sons of the Arab nation are optimistic about the ACC and await practical measures to achieve common Arab action.

The ACC finance ministers reiterated their concern to achieve the objectives of the ACC and to present proposals and ideas for intensifying cooperation in the service of the ACC states and the Arab nation.

Ramadan Receives Trade Ministers

JN2707152989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received the trade, economy, and supply ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed during the meeting that the march of the ACC since its launching calls for optimism and satisfaction. He added that many meetings have been held to translate the directives of the ACC leaders into tangible measures to serve the ACC states' higher interests.

The ACC trade, economy, and supply ministers noted that during their meetings they discussed the best ways of achieving coordination and cooperation in imports and exports among the ACC states and with the world. They expressed their readiness to continue efforts to translate the sublime objectives of the ACC and to reinforce its pioneer march.

Industry Ministers Sign Minutes

JN2707191089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] industry ministers this evening signed minutes on joint industrial cooperation. The minutes call for achieving industrial integration among the ACC states by establishing a data bank for collecting, classifying, and analyzing data on the industrial sectors; standardizing industrial terms to lay down an industrial map on the level of the ACC states; and forming a specialized technical committee for coordination as well as the standardization of the specifications for and measurements of industrial products and intermediary materials used in production.

The minutes call for cooperation in the fields of research, development, and technology transfer. They also call for encouraging the establishment of specialized companies and offices to prepare studies on the technical and economic advantage of industrial projects and designs; implement projects; lay down future industrial projects for required strategic industries such as food, engineering, and chemical industries; and work toward unifying the climate of industrial investment through reviewing the existing laws and legislation in the ACC states to serve industrial investment.

The minutes affirm the importance of strengthening the ACC states' trade exchanges of industrial material and commodities through equitable deals serving ACC industry, completing electrical linkage among the ACC states, defining a liaison directorate at the Industry Ministries of the four states to follow up decisions and directives, and forming specialized technical committees to carry out recommendations. [passage omitted]

Lebanon Tripartite Committee Meeting Slated

LD2707133189 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Rabat, July 27 (MAP)—The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia will hold a meeting in Rabat Saturday [29 July] to evaluate their action in the context of the mission entrusted to the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon.

The meeting will be held after the latest mission (July 12) of the three foreign ministers to Syria where they conferred with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar, a communique of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said.

The foreign ministers' meeting is part of the prolongation of their mission in the region and of the contacts that took place between the three heads of state, member of the tripartite committee, namely King Hassan II, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, the communique said.

The tripartite committee was formed by the extraordinary Arab summit held in Casablanca last May to find a way out to the Lebanese crisis.

UMA Follow-Up Committee Begins Rabat Meeting

LD2707135689 Rabat MAP in English 1352 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Rabat, July 27 (MAP)—The first session of the follow-up committee of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) started its works here Wednesday [27 July] under the chairmanship of Moroccan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Charge of UMA Affairs Driss Alaoui Mdaghri to establish the various bodies provided for in the UMA treaty, elaborate a plan of action for UMA, and discuss the union's relations with other regional groupings.

The three day session is attended by Algerian, Libyan, Mauritanian and Tunisian secretaries of state in charge of UMA affairs as well as by UMA secretary general.

The follow-up committee is formed, as stipulated by Article 9 of the UMA treaty, by a member of the cabinet or general popular committee of every member state entrusted with following up the UMA affairs. The follow-up committee will submit the results of its works to the council of foreign ministers.

In an address on the occasion, Mdaghri pointed out that to reach the goals set to the committee, it was necessary to coordinate action, in an efficient and operational way, with the other bodies of the UMA.

He also stressed the need for UMA to promote relations with other regional groupings.

The follow-up committee is to hold Friday a joint meeting with the UMA secretariat general before winding up the session by the adoption of recommendations and a final report.

The members of the union's secretariat general on their part held a meeting here Wednesday to examine internal regulations and working methods as well as relations with other UMA bodies.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on Shamir-Al-Tarifi Meeting
JN2707201689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1948 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, 27 Jul (WAKH)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, affirmed this evening that the recent meeting between al-Birah Deputy Mayor Jamil al-Tarifi and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was held with the approval and prior knowledge of the Palestinian leadership.

In reply to a question on the issue posed by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, 'Arafat said that the meeting had exposed the dimensions of the plan which Israeli Prime Minister Shamir is attempting to sell to the Palestinian people, as Shamir's objectives and those of his plan for elections in the occupied territories announced in May have become well-known.

'Arafat affirmed that Al-Tarifi relayed the results of this meeting to the Palestinian leadership immediately after the meeting, just as has been the custom of Palestinian figures whenever they meet any Israeli official.

Al-Tarifi Comments

JN2807102089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0912 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] London, 28 Jul (WAKH)—Palestinian lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, who met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on 12 July and whose meeting was kept under a shroud of secrecy until a few days ago, has announced that he explained to the Israeli prime minister his position on resolving the Palestine question on the basis of the Palestinian peace initiative and the positions declared by the PLO over the past few months in the wake of the Palestine National Council session in Algiers. In a telephone call with a WAKH correspondent in London, Al-Tarifi noted that the details of the meeting were communicated to the PLO leadership in Tunis through different channels. He asserted that any meeting or initiative by any Palestinian figure will not succeed if not approved by the PLO leadership.

Al-Tarifi said that Shamir affirmed his government's commitment to the peace plan he announced. The plan focuses on the need to hold elections that will lead to the emergence of a Palestinian authority to supervise all aspects of life in the occupied Arab territory except

foreign policy and security. This stage can be called a transitional stage to test the process of coexistence between the Palestinians and Israelis. This stage would last a number of years, after which negotiations would be held between the two sides to define the framework of the final solution to the crisis.

Al-Tarifi quoted Shamir as saying that the negotiations will be renewed whenever they fail to reach a final result. Help could be sought from the United States and some Arab countries to bring viewpoints closer.

Al-Tarifi was al-Birah deputy mayor following the elections conducted in the occupied territory in 1976. He was relieved of his post by the occupation authorities at the beginning of the eighties when the elected municipalities were dissolved.

Further on PLO Approval

LD2707210689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1955 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, July 27 (KUNA)—The meeting between Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir and Deputy Chairman of Ramallah Municipality Jamil al-Tarifi was held with the knowledge and approval of the PLO leadership, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said Thursday.

Quoted by the Palestinian news agency (WAFA) 'Arafat said this meeting was held to get acquainted with the objectives of Shamir out of his elections plan for the occupied Palestinian territories.

'Arafat added in his statement that Al-Tarifi has briefed the Palestinian leadership on the results of this meeting immediately.

Commentary Calls U.S. 'Enemy' of Palestinians

JN1307205689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1853 GMT 13 Jul 89

[Commentary by the political editor of the WAFA Palestinian news agency: "Who Is To Be Held Responsible for the Killing of Palestinians?"]

[Text] We do not know what the position of the U.S. Administration is after the end of the game and after the backs of players have been exposed to the extent that none of them remained capable of defending the principles with which they strengthened their position through the vindication of wrongdoing and injustice and also through the use of force and tyranny.

Each of the four no's incorporated into Shamir's election plan which Shamir himself had to accept—those pertaining to terminating the intifadah [uprising], ruling out the participation by Jerusalem residents in elections, continuing settlement activities, and rejecting all PLO involvement—would be enough to bring down the foundations of the alleged plan.

We say that following these amendments, the U.S. position becomes more critical than ever, as the United States can no longer try to peddle a plan which it well knows is like swimming against the tide in a tempestuous and fickle sea. This dictates that the U.S. Administration must decide on its final position, as the policy of blind support does not befit a superpower whose wrath and anger is voiced over the rights of a single individual which it seeks out in the USSR or the PRC while it choosing to turn a deaf ear and blind eye to the crusade against the Palestinians and to the indiscriminate killing which is being carried out by the settlers against the Palestinians just because they are Palestinians.

The picture should not be fragmented. The scene must be allowed to move in slow motion so that world opinion can ascertain for itself the tribal elements in the motive, the primitive aspect of the action, the ugliness of the details, and the savagery of the slaying and killing. Here are the bearded settlers wearing their yarmulkes, filled with malice and fanaticism on center stage—killing, slaying, and drinking the blood of their victims while the master of the White House watches the scene and is bothered only a little bit. He is not angered. Are we of a different mold? And are not the Palestinians human beings worthy of enjoying the human rights enshrined in U.S. law?

We have done our best to set forth the principles designed to encourage the United States. Thus we called the contacts being maintained with it a dialogue, while they are, as a matter of fact, no more than contacts or a modest exchange of opinions that have been proven by

experience to have no future so long as the U.S. Administration is timidly and very reluctantly holding these contacts for fear of eliciting Israeli anger. However, the United States is working to prevent Israeli anger. Are these bearded fanatic killers wearing their yarmulkes the ones who are killing Palestinians, hanging them, and stealing their bodies, or are they the terrorist officials who claim that they love the Palestinian people while they order the killings, give the army a free hand to kill publicly on some occasions, and let the settlers loose covertly other times?

They [not further identified] want us to believe that the entity which has killed this large number of Palestinians and Arabs throughout these decades is an entity composed of statelets and disorganized groups and gangs and that nobody can rule others. This might be the future picture of this entity. However, we also believe that this is also the present of this entity. We also believe that giving the settlers a free hand in this is another act in the theater of terrorism through which the Israeli authorities are attempting to wash their hands of the responsibility for shedding Palestinian blood. It is true that the Israeli authorities' responsibility for this is something that cannot be evaded and that their game is well-known to us. We will continue to view the United States as the first party to be held [words indistinct] has turned into water that does not move the conscience. Yes, the United States is the party to be held responsible first and foremost. We will not delude ourselves. However, this responsibility will not turn our attention away from continuing the struggle, the intifadah, and the resistance. For more than 40 years, the United States has, on a daily basis, proved to be an enemy of our people. It has continued up to this moment to work persistently to consecrate this fact by all means, methods, and statements.

Algeria

National Assembly Ratifies Information Law
LD2707135189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The Information Law was ratified today by the National Assembly, after having undergone some amendments. [passage omitted]

Article 38, related to the language to be used in publications and periodicals stipulates that the language for general publications will only be Arabic. The deputies also ratified the committee's proposal in connection with Article 7, which was subjected to many amendments. The article stipulates that audio and televised information be broadcast in local dialects, particularly daily newscasts. It also stresses the state's monopoly on radio and television. The amendments also determine the exercise of informational rights of state institutions, the apparatuses set up by associations of political nature, and publications issued by private individuals and bodies. Another amendment related to the distribution of foreign information in Algeria stressed that it must not contradict national values and constants, and that it should be distributed by national public institutions. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Receives French Finance Minister
LD2707122989 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Algiers, 27 July (APS)—After an audience spared to him Wednesday [26 July] by President Chadli Bendjedid, the French finance minister, Pierre Berégovoy said to the press that he cited with the head of state "problems faced in the development of cooperation between the Maghreb countries and the European Community".

Berégovoy also said that "evolution of the situation in the Mediterranean basin and in Africa" were also tackled. Berégovoy arrived Wednesday afternoon here for an official visit.

Egypt

POW Negotiations With Iran 'Stopped'
JN2707195489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
26 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] All Arab and European mediation efforts between Cairo and Tehran to release the Egyptian POW's in Iran have recently stopped. The Iranian authorities have insisted on direct negotiations with the Egyptian Government and on tying Iran's consent to release the

POW's to the normalization of Iranian-Egyptian relations. Iran has refused to give the International Committee of the Red Cross information on the Egyptian POW's.

Iranian sources claimed that the Egyptian POW's number around 13,000 but the Egyptian Foreign Ministry put the number at 146 civilians who had been working for the Southern Iraq Oil Company and were later captured by the Iranians during the battles at the Iraqi islands of Khark and Majnun [as published].

Recently, Oman attempted to persuade the Iranian authorities to release the Egyptian POW's as an act of good faith. Egyptian sources said Egypt rejected Iranian attempts to exploit the POW issue to impose preconditions on Cairo and damage its fraternal relations with Iraq. The sources said Egypt believes the POW problem should be solved within a comprehensive settlement of the Iraqi POW issue. Iran has repeatedly threatened to treat the Egyptian POW's as mercenaries.

Editorial on 'Promoting African Solidarity'
JN2807081489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
26 Jul 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Promoting African Solidarity"]

[Text] Following his unanimous election as the OAU chairman, President Husni Mubarak has pledged to exert his efforts to end differences among the OAU states to mitigate the tension in some African areas.

The president was successful when he placed the issue of promoting African solidarity and using it to eliminate all the differences and disputes that still exist among the fraternal countries in Africa at the top of the issues he called for concentrating on during the new session of the OAU under his chairmanship. All states are members of the organization, whose main objective is to unify efforts, exchange help, and prepare the atmosphere to confront challenges, problems, and crises facing the African states.

Solidarity and feelings of unity among the OAU members should be reinforced to make the efforts exerted to promote the standard of the Africans a success and to help them compensate for what they missed and follow world progress as much as they can. And this calls for removing all reasons of differences among these states so that the path will be paved for implementing the schemes endorsed by the OAU without any obstacles.

Most of the existing disputes among some neighborly African states are inherited from the colonial era. Colonialists planted these disputes before they left so that they would remain factors of divisions and fragmentation among the African states after they achieved their independence. Although approximately 30 years have passed since most of the African states achieved their

independence, differences still obstruct fruitful cooperation among these states, which belong to one organization whose basic charter calls for settling disputes among its members through peaceful means.

There is no doubt that restoring the genuine reconciliation and the spirit of solidarity and unity among the OAU members is a priority issue in OAU efforts. Without reconciliation it will be impossible to achieve any positive actual results to resolve the pressing African problems, particularly the economic problem.

Mubarak Receives Greetings From Supreme Soviet
NC2707130789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a greetings cable from the Supreme Soviet Presidium on the 37th anniversary of the 23 July revolution. The text of the cable reads as follows:

Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt: On the 37th anniversary of the 23 July revolution, we are pleased to extend to you and to the friendly Egyptian people our heartfelt greetings.

It is very gratifying that our joint efforts to develop political dialogue and bolster Egyptian-Soviet relations are producing the desired results and encouraging further understanding and cooperation between our two countries.

We wish you good health and success and wish the Egyptian people further progress and prosperity.

In response, President Mubarak sent a cable thanking the Supreme Soviet Presidium for their greetings. [passage omitted]

IMF Executive Director on Economic Policy
NC2707173589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, IMF executive director, arrived in Cairo this evening after a 3-hour visit to Amman. Dr Sha'lan arrived in Amman from Syria, where he paid an official visit at the invitation of the Syrian Government for talks between the IMF and Syria.

In an arrival statement, Dr Sha'lan explained that his visit to Jordan was intended to study the causes underlying the sudden drop in Jordanian dinar rates. He said that studies reveal the drop had been caused by external factors represented in the current events in the occupied territories, rather than by the Jordanian Government.

The IMF official said that the ongoing talks between Egypt and the IMF are taking a proper course and that the Egyptian Government has taken positive steps toward economic reform. He added that a few points remain to be discussed.

Dr Sha'lan noted that a committee will arrive in Cairo this week to prepare for a meeting between the Egyptian Government and the IMF delegation due to arrive in August to discuss the points of disagreement.

Touching on the letter of intent, Dr Sha'lan said that what matters now is not signing the letter of intent but reaching an agreement on the Egyptian Government's economic policies. He further explained that signing the letter of intent is a true interpretation of the policies applied by the Egyptian Government.

Commenting on Egyptian economic policy, Dr Sha'lan noted that this policy had its positive effect this month as represented in the drop in the U.S. dollar exchange rate. He believes that the government budget is the most important feature of this policy because it has focused on curbing inflation.

Dr Sha'lan described the Egyptian economic reform program as 100 percent Egyptian. He affirmed that the IMF had not exerted any pressure on Egypt in this regard. He added that the IMF is fully convinced that economic reform must be undertaken when the state itself is fully convinced of its necessity.

Plan To Sell Failing Public Companies To Workers
JN2707192689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
26 Jul 89 p 1

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] A responsible government source has divulged details of a public sector reform plan. It has been decided that 35 failing public sector companies will be sold to company workers within 12 months. The national investment bank will assume the task of gradually transferring the ownership to the workers. The bank will pay the workers' shares and will subsequently recoup the cost from the companies' profits. It is estimated that full ownership will be completely transferred to the workers within 5-10 years in accordance with the efficiency of each company.

The plan also envisages ending support for 100 other failing companies and beginning to sell them off within the next 3 years. During the next few weeks, the government is expected to discuss a proposal to sell some companies to financiers with a percentage of shares going to the workers. The government is expected to use some of its U.S. aid as well as assistance from international banks and financial organizations to implement the first phase of the public sector reform plan. The

government has ruled out selling 125 strategic public sector companies and says that it will continue to extend assistance to them and give their managers wide-scale powers.

Oil Fields Begin Production; Gas Exported

JN2807092089 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
26 Jul 89 p 6

[By Nasir al-Ba'thi]

[Text] The Petroleum Authority has announced that five oil fields in Suez, al-Sahra' al-Sharqiyah, and al-Sahra' al-Gharbiyah began production for the first time last year. They are the Murjan, Gharb Tut, Shamal 'Amir, al-Amal, and al-Sahra' al-Gharbiyah oil fields.

Production of butane gas extracted from natural gases also began at Abu-Madi field at a capacity of 160 tons per day carried through a pipeline to the Tante gas filling station [as published]. This is in addition to 250 tons of butane gas carried daily from the Khalij al-Zayt field to Suez.

The report says that the overall output of butane gas from all fields last year amounts to 488,000 tons. During the same period, 49,000 tons of butane gas were exported. The first stage of a petrochemical complex was successfully operated to produce polyphenol chloride at a capacity of 80,000 tons annually to meet the needs of agriculture, irrigation, cables industry, and the production of caustic soda to cover local consumption and reduce imports.

Libya

Paper Reports 'Secret Contacts' With U.S.

PM2707150989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 26 Jul 89 p 1

[Talhah Jibril report: "Secret Contacts Between Washington and Tripoli Despite U.S. Decision To Continue Imposing Sanctions on Libya"]

[Excerpt] Rabat—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed sources that contacts are currently being made between the U.S. Administration and Libya to discuss the possibility of improving relations between the two countries.

The sources pointed out that these contacts, which are being conducted in the utmost secrecy, were prepared for through some Arab parties' mediations, but said that the contacts have not yet achieved any tangible progress.

There had been reports in Rabat to the effect that during a visit to Morocco 2 weeks ago to attend the Moroccan Youth Day celebrations Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Command Council, met with some U.S. officials.

It was reported at that time that Maj al-Humaydi met with U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Vernon Walters, who attended the celebrations. But Muhammad Qasim al-Zuwwi, Libyan secretary in Rabat, denied that incident to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and pointed out that such contacts, if they do take place, are conducted via other channels.

The White House last Wednesday announced that the administration of U.S. President George Bush had extended the duration of the economic sanctions imposed on Libya without making any change in them. [passage omitted]

Aviation Official Briefs Media on DC-10 Crash

LD2807092889 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A member of the Administrative Committee of the General Commission of the Civil Aviation and chairman of the committee investigating the crash of the Korean plane has said that 121 people were saved in this incident including the passengers on board and its crew totalling 199 people. 78 died according to the latest hospital reports.

At a press conference held last night in Tripoli attended by a number of news agencies correspondents in Great al-Jamahiriyah, the above chairman said that thanks to the urgent and rapid rescue operations, the fire brigade and rescue personnel managed to discharge their duty effectively and with utmost competence unprecedented in such cases especially owing to the dispersal of the debris of the plane and the fire setting it ablaze.

He pointed out that the air control tower provided all the information to the pilot relating to the then prevailing weather condition. According to the international laws and regulations, the pilot had a right to take a decision either to land or to land elsewhere in connection with his estimates of the situation.

The chairman said that the causes for this incident could be attributed to a mistake in the estimates of the pilot or a technical fault. This would be ascertained by the recorded tapes of the black box. He pointed out that the latest information regarding the inland radar was given to the pilot. The time was 7 a.m. [0500 GMT] according to the local time. The visibility was 800 metres, apart from the condition and the fog. [sentence as heard] A disconnection took place between the plane and the control tower around 7:12 a.m.

The chairman added that such information was given to the pilot of a Soviet plane and he asked to land at an airport in Malta.

He continued that this Korean plane was on a flight from Seoul, Bangkok, Jeddah and Tripoli carrying on board 199 people including 18 crew personnel, 3 Japanese and 7 Libyan Arabs, two of them are children, the rest of the passengers being South Koreans.

He pointed out that in this crash that took place 2 miles to the east of Tripoli International Airport, a number of houses were destroyed and several people were killed from among the Libyan Arab citizens.

He stressed that around 15 to 20 minutes following this unfortunate incident, the movement in Tripoli International Airport became normal.

Data on Injured Cited

*LD2707150889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1410 GMT
27 Jul 89*

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 27 Jul (JANA)—Sources at the General People's Committee for Justice report that the number of passengers and crew of the crashed Korean airliner being treated in Tripoli hospitals has reached 113; 30 are suffering injuries; 17 are suffering burns; 66 are in good health, but receiving some medical treatment before leaving the hospitals in a few hours' time; 8 have already been discharged. [passage omitted]

Jallud Addresses Arab University Students

*LD2707125189 Tripoli JANA in English 0836 GMT
27 Jul 89*

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended part of the intellectual, literary and arts match of the Arab students inside and outside the Arab homeland. This match is organized by al-Nasir International University under the motto: Towards thoughts, literature and arts serving the questions of the Arab nation.

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, in his talk at this match, has pointed out that this seminar has had positive results that are important. The importance of this meeting among Arab youth lies in discussing matters of destiny of interest to the Arab nation.

He points out that the Arab nation lives now in the stage of isolated islands, so much so that there exist now an intellectual and cultural vacuum.

He adds that the pan-Arab thoughts face real crisis because such proposition have not come to respond to the requirements of the social revolution. The Arab intellectual is suffering from inferiority complex. The thoughts have become a commodity to be imported, not a process of sufferings or a cultural legitimate creativity for a nation of a social revolution.

He continues that the intellectual in the Arab homeland has to possess courage to score a victory over himself, not to resort to others so as not to let the forces hostile to

the Arab nation exploit this intellectual vacuum mobilizing it with defeatist culture that is capitulationist not giving any value to integrity or glory.

He adds that the pan-Arabist thoughts must get transformed to 'Jamahiri' theory because the jamahir (of the masses) order is the liberation of the Arab masses from all the tools of injustice, oppression and exploitation.

He says that the Jamahiri theory is antithetical to the governmental theory because the former is not a figment of imagination of an individual. Rather, it is a result of the development of the political movement worldwide. It secures the effective presence of the masses in all walks of life besides being the sole Jamahiri project capable of protesting the Arab nation against liquidation. It is capable of creating the victorious culture calling for integrity and triumph over its foes.

He has reaffirmed that the real men are the heroes of the revolution of stones and the Lebanese patriotic movement. These people have the right alone to commemorate the 23rd July revolution because they are faithful to Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and the principles of this revolution.

Higher Education Protocol Signed With Nigeria

*LD2707014489 Tripoli JANA in English 1753 GMT
26 Jul 89*

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—At noon today in Tripoli signing took place on a protocol agreement for cooperation in the field of higher education between Great Jamahiriya and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The protocol agreement was signed by the secretary of the People's Committee for Higher Education and Jubril Aminu the minister of education in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The protocol includes the consolidation and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the field of higher education and the exchange of expertise, dons and lecturers in higher education and the establishment of a centre for Arabic language teaching in the Nigerian University of Maiduguri.

Mauritania

Senegal Charged With Planning 'Offensive'

*AB2707151589 Dakar PANA in English 1430 GMT
27 Jul 89*

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 July (AMP/PANA)—Armed groups have been organized by the Senegalese Government and sent to attack Mauritanian citizens on their soil, the Mauritanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs charged on Thursday [27 July].

An official statement said that the actions of the groups have been backed by intensive movements of Senegalese troops at the border between the two countries, adding that these constituted a military offensive being prepared by Senegal.

In addition, political and psychological preparation of the international opinion is not any less advanced, the government stated, adding that the bellicose declaration of 13 July in Paris by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf could be seen in this light.

It reiterated that the notice of Senegal to the UN Security Council saying in a thinly veiled manner that peace would be disturbed between Senegal and Mauritania and the fact that the task was done by the Ministry of Armed Forces should also be seen in this light.

It further charged that the accusations of President Diouf before the OAU and the famous statement of the Amnesty International were part of the preparations for the military offensive.

In any case, Senegal and Amnesty International should know that the planned aggression against our country will fail and Mauritania will vigorously stand up to oppose any move to attack its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the statement added.

'No Unusual Troop Movement'

AB2707193789 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 27 Jul 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpts] Mauritania and Senegal seem to be drifting inexorably toward open conflict. It began with ethnic violence in April in which hundreds of Arab and black nationals of both countries were killed. Then Mauritania started expelling blacks into Senegal. Senegal responded by making claims to Mauritanian territory on the border along the Senegal river. This week, Senegal complained about the expulsion to the UN Security Council, saying that there was a serious threat to peace in the region. Now Mauritania has replied in a toughly worded communique, accusing Senegal of preparing for war and of military incursions into Mauritanian territory. From Nouakchott, Shey Bekay telexed this report:

[Begin announcer recording] The communique issued by the Mauritanian Ministry of Information said that Senegalese military groups had attacked Mauritanian civilians. No figures were given but the communique said that innocent people had died because of this aggression. [passage omitted]

Although no official figures have been given for the number of people killed, an unofficial source said at least five people have died during border operations by unknown groups. [end recording]

Well, those are Mauritania's accusations against Senegal. Robin White asked our Dakar correspondent, Mark Doyle, if they were true.

[Begin recording] [Doyle] Well, it is impossible to know what is going on along the whole of the border because it is 700 or 800 km long. But I have just been on the phone to somebody on the Senegalese side of the border at the town of Podor, and he says there is no unusual troop movement at all. Indeed in some places, he says there are less troops than there had been before. Now, that is not to say that I can say that there have not been any troop movements, but certainly in the central part of the border area along an area of about 100 km, apparently nothing unusual is happening at all.

[White] Now, what about these commandos who, Mauritians say, are coming across the border?

[Doyle] Well, my source said that he had heard the Mauritanian communique as well. He thinks probably that these so-called commandos are groups of people who have been expelled or who have fled from Mauritania and who were returning to their villages at night to try and gather their goods and so on, and their cattle, which they had been obliged to leave in Mauritania. So, although, of course, one cannot categorically say it has not been happening, certainly, in this part of the border areas and today, according to my source, if there were any so-called commandos they would be disorganized groups of civilians going back to gather their goods together rather than anything that was specifically being organized by the Senegalese Government as alleged by Nouakchott. [end recording]

Bar Association 'Regrets' Amnesty Statement
AB2707210689 Dakar PANA in French 1153 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Jul (AMP/PANA)—The Mauritanian Bar Association has expressed its regret over the partiality of the Amnesty International statement on the Mauritania-Senegal conflict. "Following the serious accusation made by Amnesty International against Mauritania and considering the unfortunate conflict between Mauritania and Senegal, the Mauritanian Bar Association strongly regrets the partiality of this statement," it stated in a communique issued in Nouakchott yesterday. The Bar "is surprised that this organization did not complain about the serious and inhuman treatment Mauritians experienced during the event," and "calls on the international community to examine without delay the situation of Mauritians who have not been able to leave Senegal."

Morocco

'Arafat Arrives, Received by King Hassan 28 Jul
LD2807074689 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received at the Royal Palace

in Skhirat yesterday evening the president of the state of Palestine, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in our country yesterday. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Talks With SPLM Slated for 1st Week in Aug
NC2707115489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], has stated that talks between Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in southern Sudan will begin in the 1st week of August. He added that the talks will be held in Addis Ababa and that the Sudanese Government's delegation to the negotiations will be led by an RCC member and will include civilians as well.

Speaking at a news conference held at the Presidential Palace here this morning, Lt Gen al-Bashir said the purpose of these talks is to reach a final and radical solution. Such a solution is difficult to reach in just one or two sessions and takes a long time.

Lt Gen al-Bashir praised President Husni Mubarak's mediation between the Sudanese Government and the SPLM, which will culminate in the holding of this important meeting.

Replying to a question from MENA's correspondent in Khartoum on the role of President Husni Mubarak, as the current OAU chairman, in solving Sudan's problem in the south and other African issues, he stressed that President Mubarak's chairmanship of the OAU will be an effective factor in resolving the problem in the south and will also help solve many other problems because of Mubarak's good relations with all African leaders.

Regarding the role of Sudan's neighboring countries in solving the problem of the south, the Sudanese revolution leader stressed that Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has an influence in solving the problem, particularly as the movement and its radio are based in his territory. He added that he has agreed with the Ethiopian president that each side will lead the groups they support—the SPLM in the case of Ethiopia and the Eritrean Front in the case of Sudan—to the talks that will be held in the future to solve the problems in the region. A joint Sudanese-Ethiopian committee has also been formed to contact the parties concerned. The committee will report to the presidents of the two countries.

Lt Gen al-Bashir explained that Kenya also plays an important and direct role in the war in the south. He noted that Sudanese-Kenyan relations had been strained because of some problems. These included the accusation by the previous government in Sudan of Kenya's

aiding the rebel movement, as well as the dispute over the Yamma triangle. He stressed that over 50 percent of the causes of the problems between the two countries has been removed.

On the refugee problem in Sudan, Al-Bashir explained that the causes of this problem must be solved. This is because the refugees cannot go to their homes in the south or in neighboring countries until a drastic solution is found for the southern problem.

The leader of the Sudanese revolution welcomed the convening of the Arab-African ministerial conference in Khartoum because this will stimulate Arab-African relations and accelerate the implementation of joint projects that serve the people of the Arab and African countries.

Speaking about the African summit conference, Al-Bashir said that the conference was successful and fruitful and that he received warm welcome from all countries interested in Sudan. He noted that the most important achievement of the conference had been the formation of a committee under President Mubarak, the current chairman of the OAU, to discuss African debt and find solutions to the problem.

Mali's Traore To Mediate

EA2707215689 Dakar PANA in English 1805 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, 27th July (AMAP/PANA)—The leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], John Garang, has urged Malian President Moussa Traore to help re-establish dialogue between the SPLA and the government. Garang, who met with Traore for the first time in Addis Ababa, said that he recognized the credibility of Traore with the new government of Sudan. He said that he sought peace and unity of the country, adding that he would like to have the advice and suggestions of the Malian leader who earlier, at the OAU 25th summit, ended a one-year term as chairman of the continent organization.

Garang has since 1983 headed the SPLA, which has been fighting the government and held on to a part of southern Sudan.

Income Tax Structure Adjusted Upward

EA2607210089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT
26 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 July (SUNA)—The tax income has been raised from the previous 3,000 pounds to 4,800, according to a circular from the Tax Chamber today. A 10-percent tax is put on the first 3,000 pounds after the 4,800 exempt annual income, according to the circular. The tax increases in accordance with any sum superior to the first 4,800 pounds. Starting from 10 percent on the first 3,000 the tax is limited to 40 percent from any income exceeding 11,800 pounds per annum.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Holds Talks With Perez de Cuellar
LD2607130489 Algiers APS in English 1014 GMT
26 Jul 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26/7/89 (APS)—President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Secretary General of the Polisario Front Mohamed Abdelaziz, had talks Tuesday off the 25th OAU summit the UN Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar. Abdelaziz said to the press that he tackled with Perez de Cuellar the carrying on of efforts made by the UN and the OAU in the raising of the last obstacles preventing the organization of a free, regular, and general referendum in Western Sahara.

SDAR Ministry on U.S. Congressional Motion
LD2707120489 Algiers APS in English 1003 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] SADR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic], 27 July (APS)—The committee for allowance of funds of the American Congress decided following debates on the American military assistance to Morocco to adopt a motion "inviting parties to seek for a negotiated peaceful settlement," a communique of the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture indicated.

The committee which noted with satisfaction talks of Marrakesh invited King Hassan II to take the necessary measures able in favour of a settlement of this conflict", the communique also indicated. [sentence as received]

Bahrain

Foreign Minister, Delegation Leave for U.S. Visit
JN2807094489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0914 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Manama, 28 Jul (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah left Manama for Washington this morning on a 4-day official visit to the United States. The Bahraini minister will convey a message from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, to U.S. President George Bush. The foreign minister will also hold a number of meetings with Secretary of State James Baker, senior officials in the U.S. Administration, and congressmen on bilateral relations and ways to reinforce them, current developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, and issues that concern the Gulf Cooperation Council, in addition to issues of common interest.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah is accompanied by Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, ambassador of the State of Bahrain in Washington; Karim Ibrahim al-Shukr, representative of the State of Bahrain at the United Nations; Khalid al-Musallam, chief of the minister's office; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, adviser at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Isa Kamal, first secretary at the foreign minister's office.

Kuwait

Foreigners Allowed Full Ownership of Businesses
JN2507135489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
24 Jul 89 p 1

[Excerpt] In a major move to liberalise its commercial law Kuwait yesterday announced that non-Kuwaitis can set up businesses in the country under their own names.

According to an Amiri Decree published in yesterday's issue of the Official Gazette non-Kuwaiti shop-owners and craftsmen can run their businesses without a Kuwaiti partner. This is an amendment to the 1980 commercial law which precluded expatriates from owning more than 49 per cent of any business in Kuwait.

Non-Kuwaitis who deposit their funds with local banks and financial institutions are also entitled to 100 per cent ownership of a business. Expatriates can appoint local banks and finance houses to trade on their behalf in foreign currencies and precious metals.

The decree also rules that all court cases resulting from disputes between non-Kuwaiti investors and their Kuwaiti partners, or local exchange and investment companies will be dropped and charges refunded to the concerned parties.

The move came in recognition of the role the expatriates play in Kuwait's economy and represents reversal of the 1980 commercial law which sought to protect Kuwaiti businessmen from intense competition, an explanatory note said.

Kuwait's financial sector will continue to suffer if the expatriate investment potential is ignored, it added. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Turkish-Bulgarian Crisis
LD2407140689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1147 GMT
24 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 24 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah affirmed the attention given by his highness the amir to the crisis which erupted between Ankara and Sofia over the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that the Turkish-Bulgarian crisis can only be resolved through mutual understanding between the two neighboring countries.

He indicated that Kuwait is now holding contacts with both parties in its capacity as chairman of the current session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Kuwait had recalled its ambassador in Sofia Talib al-Naqib last week to consult with him over the situation of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

The deputy premier and foreign minister said that Kuwait is now awaiting a reply by the Turkish and Bulgarian governments on the crisis, affirming Kuwait's keen desire to resolve it diplomatically.

Saudi Arabia

'Rumors' of King Fahd's Illness Denied
LD2807013689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2305 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 27 July 1989, (SPA)—A responsible source has denied a report in today's U.S. WASHINGTON TIMES, citing what it had called Lebanese sources citing French political circles and rumors being investigated, that King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz is suffering from an incurable illness.

The source told SPA "we have grown accustomed to such lies from hating sides. We want to confirm that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-Aziz, may God safeguard him, enjoys full health and shoulders his grave responsibilities in the fullest manner. More thanks to God."

King Fahd To Visit United States 14 Sep
LD2707221489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2118 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 27 Jul (SPA)—With God's will, it has been decided that King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, will carry out his expected visit to the United States on 14 September 1989. This was announced in a statement issued today by the Royal Court. [passage omitted]

Geneva UN Envoy on Prisoners, Resolution 598
JN2807091489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0700 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Iraq's permanent representative at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva has called for expediting the exchange of prisoners of the Iraq-Iran war. He affirmed Iraq's absolute rejection of the attempts to bargain over this subject or to link it with the political negotiations between the two countries. In a statement published in yesterday's JINIV AL-'ARABIYAH [ARAB GENEVA], the Iraqi official said: The insistence of the Iranian side on linking the issue of prisoners of war with the implementation of the other paragraphs included in Security Council Resolution No 598 is a cheap operation aimed at turning the issue of prisoners of war into a bargaining chip to obtain gains that are far removed from the humanitarian aspect of the issue.

Iraq's permanent representative added: So far, there are no serious signs of the Iranians' desire to implement the UN resolution on which they agreed only after their regime was exposed to a series of military and political defeats. This prompted them to implement one paragraph of this resolution—namely, the cease-fire. He added that after they achieved their purpose of the cease-fire and prevented the downfall of their regime, the Iranians began to search for pretexts, methods, and daily inventions in order to obstruct the implementation of the resolution and prolong the state of no war, no peace.

The Iraqi official added that the Iranians' method to this effect is known. They choose a certain paragraph of the security resolution and bypass others; they then choose certain paragraphs and ignore others. In other words, they choose the paragraphs they want and ignore the paragraphs they do not want. This method is contrary to the resolution itself and to logic.

Syria-Iran Role in Lebanon Criticized
JN2607174289 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
23 Jul 89 p 2

["A Stand" column by Faysal Zaki: "A New Conspiratorial Step Against Lebanon's Unity and Arabism"]

[Text] The Syrian and Iranian regimes have recently intensified their conspiratorial coordination with regard to Lebanon. As a result of this coordination, a new political arrangement was formed consisting of factional and anti-Arab forces as well as the agents of the Syrian and Iranian regimes in Lebanon. These forces held consecutive meetings in Tehran in the presence of official Syrian and Lebanese representatives. These forces issued a political statement in which they called for forming what they called a popular Lebanese government in the areas controlled by the Iranians and Syrians to confront the legitimate government chaired by General 'Awn. There is no doubt that the call for forming this

government came to complete the call—raised in Damascus a few weeks ago—for establishing the so-called national Lebanese Front charged with many political, financial, economic, security, military, and administrative tasks.

In light of what came out of the Tehran and Damascus meetings, it has become clear that the Syrian regime is trying to mobilize all its resources as well as those of its allies and tools in order to abort the Arab solution in Lebanon. The Syrian regime is trying this now after realizing that it could not achieve the objective alone despite its military pressure and political blackmail—which include the devastating shelling of residential areas and vital installations; the tightening of the naval siege to block food supplies; the threats to attack the areas under the legitimate government or to inflict violent retaliation; the impossible conditions it presented to the tripartite Arab committee; and its feverish attempts to mobilize, manipulate, and coordinate its local tools in Lebanon.

Yes, Hafiz al-Asad has searched for a regional and international way out of his present crisis. He found that America is exerting all kinds of pressure in his interest; the Zionist entity is exerting other kinds of pressure in his interest; and the Tehran regime is throwing all its weight on his side—not just as a supporter, but as a full partner in managing the crisis and conflict. And here lies the real threat to Lebanon's Arabism, fate, and future. The Tehran rulers' ambitions and objectives in Lebanon are as serious as the Zionists'. Tackling the escalating Iranian role in Lebanon will prompt the tripartite Arab committee to address Tehran, not Damascus only, thereby giving Iran a great opportunity to interfere in Arab affairs and decisions. And this is the main objective of Syria's ruler Hafiz al-Asad.

In accordance with the Arab solution adopted by the recent Casablanca summit, Hafiz al-Asad was asked to suspend his domination over Lebanon and end the Iranian presence that has increased under his umbrella. Hafiz al-Asad, however, has done the complete opposite. He is using every method to entrench his presence and to reinforce the role and presence of his allies, Iran's rulers, politically and militarily, according to a plan that is diametrically opposed to the Arab salvation plan.

It seems that one of the objectives of the Syrian-Iranian plan is to tighten control over the areas under Iranian and Syrian influence through their agent militias and forces and to monopolize power after destroying the organizations and institutions affiliated with the government of Al-Huss. All this will be a prelude to announcing the formation of a separatist, divisionist government in accordance with a purely Syrian-Iranian decision.

In light of this conspiracy, the Tehran declaration was issued calling for forming this disfigured government. It was also agreed to choose Nabih Birri, the leader of the

Amal gangs, to lead this government because he embodies the three wills that are running the Lebanese crisis and is loyal to Al-Asad's regime, the Tehran regime, and the Zionist enemy. In the south, Nabih Birri deals and coexists with the Zionist enemy and plays the role of a guard to protect the security of the Zionist settlements. And in Beirut and other areas, he represents the Syrian regime and is protected by the Syrian umbrella. At the same time, Birri has the confidence of the Iranian rulers who were able to curb the wings that supported the so-called Hizballah, including the Montazeri wing.

It is obvious that the leader of the Amal gangs has exploited the circumstances and acted on the basis that he is the only one qualified to lead politically after guaranteeing the support of the parties that run the conflict from outside Lebanon. He announced—from Damascus—the reopening of the crossing points. He is the one confronting the government of Al-Huss. He is the one threatening the continuation of the naval blockade. He can speak the Syrian and Iranian language at the same time. And he is the one who is trying to impose himself as the negotiator representing the militias and forces that control the areas under Syrian and Iranian influence. All this is evidence of the seriousness of the tasks with which the factional tools and anti-Arab militias will be charged in the coming stage, particularly with regard to entrenching the division and aborting the Arab salvation attempts.

The higher Arab committee charged with finding a comprehensive Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis is aware of this picture with all its ugly conspiratorial intentions and dangers to Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and future as well as to the pan-Arab security in general. The scenes, chapters, and events are played openly. And the only objective of the plots, maneuvers, and evil alliances is to challenge the popular Lebanese will, the collective Arab will, and the mission of the tripartite Arab committee.

As the picture is very clear, the Arab decisionmakers are responsible for facing what is being concocted and planned before it is too late, before the danger spreads, and before Lebanon as well as Syria turn into a hostage in the hands of racist Iran.

Transport Minister Meets Turkish Finance Minister
JN1807184389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT
18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah met here today with Ekrem Pakdemirli, Turkish minister of finance and customs. They discussed the possibility of executing the railroad between the two friendly countries and setting up a joint land transport company. They also discussed exchange of expertise in the field of transport and communications. [passage omitted]

New Officials Sworn In Before President 25 Jul
JN2507143689 Baghdad INA in English 1408 GMT
25 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—Five Iraqi officials were sworn in before President Saddam Husayn today on the occasion of assuming their new posts. The officials, were 'Abd-al-Salah Muhammad Sa'id, health minister, Muhammad Rustum, governor of Duhuk, 'Abd-al-Ilah Mahmud al-Mashhadani, governor of Maysan, Fadil al-Barrak, presidential advisor, and 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhammad Amin presidential secretary for party affairs.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Army General Command
JN2607201089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1900 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] His Excellency President Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this evening chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. The meeting was attended by Local Government Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, and Industry and Military Industries Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan.

Industry Minister Inaugurates Steel Project
JN1707204089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT
17 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, today inaugurated the first phase of the heavy foundry project for special steel. The production capacity of this phase amounts to 4,500 tonnes per year. Some of these steel blocks will weigh more than 40 tonnes. The project, which is the first of its kind in Iraq, is aimed at meeting the needs of regional countries for special steel. The cost of the project will amount to 21 million dinars.

It has been learned that the second phase of the project being implemented will produce 200,000 tonnes of steel per year in order to produce rods for the sheet rolling project for special steel which is being implemented.

Abu-Sharif Hints at 'Additional Concessions'
TA2807062789 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 28 Jul 89 pp 1, 6

[Report on a telephone interview with PLO official Bassam Abu-Sharif by 'Uzi Mahanaymi, Erol Guiney in Washington, and Yohanan Lahav "last night"]

[Excerpt] Last night, only hours after Egyptian newspapers published Yasir 'Arafat's "Four-Stage Plan," in which the PLO leader expressed his consent—with reservations—to the elections initiative for the territories, Bassam Abu-Sharif, 'Arafat's personal adviser, made a declaration to YEDI'OT AHARONOT which implicitly contains a number of additional concessions by the PLO.

"We say 'yes' to elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a political step within the political peace process, which will end in an overall settlement, meaning overall peace. We will be able to start discussing the actual character of the elections immediately after it is agreed and assurances are given that the elections will be the first, second, or third step in a process that will end the Israeli occupation and lead to negotiations on the permanent status."

These remarks were made to YEDI'OT AHARONOT in a telephone conversation with Abu-Sharif.

When asked to respond to the "four conditions" for agreeing to elections detailed by 'Arafat in a meeting with Egyptian newspaper editors, Abu-Sharif said: "Since 'Arafat's conversation with Egyptian newspaper editors, in which he detailed the four conditions for agreeing to elections in the territories, we have gone one step further." In fact, Abu-Sharif's declaration shows a PLO readiness to accept elections in the territories without linking it in advance to a commitment to a Palestinian state.

"Self-determination for the Palestinians is essential for the stability of the entire region. It will lead to a solution that will assure peace," Abu-Sharif said, but did not say that an agreement on that is a condition for elections.

'Arafat's adviser also said: "The contacts and discussions held by Mr Shamir with a number of Palestinians are important. Mr Shamir knows that Tunis gave permission for such contacts and that it received reports on their contents. We expect meetings between senior PLO officials and Shamir representatives. [no closing quotation marks as published] [passage omitted]

Peres Sees 'Positive' Side to 'Arafat Remarks
TA2807105989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good afternoon, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Peace.

[Qital] Are you impressed by 'Arafat's four points?

[Peres] Not necessarily. I think they are not the best. In fact, 'Arafat wants us to accept his dictate. He is not suggesting any negotiations. (?only gives) us 27 months, and insists on the right of return and a Palestinian state. This is not the way to conduct negotiations. These are braces imposed upon braces.

[Qital] There is one element here, though: the elections. In other words, he still mentions the elections, which are included in the Israeli plan.

[Peres] True, and this is positive on his part. At the same time, his demand that the United Nations supervise them is foolish. We do not need any UN supervision. It should be enough to have outside supervisors. Journalists from all over the world would be the best supervisors. He named three other conditions, and they are definitely unacceptable.

[Qital] Which means that we have nothing to discuss on this matter.

[Peres] I did not say that. I am saying that it is stupid and that he should accept two things: Elections in the territories and negotiations. In negotiations, everyone can present his own positions, or what he believes is the best thing.

[Qital] Speaking of negotiations, is what Israeli and Palestinian representatives are presently engaged in not actually indirect negotiations with the PLO?

[Peres] One cannot deny that it is quite similar. Look, there is a difference between negotiations with the PLO as an organization dealing with terrorism and talking to or having contacts with or actually conducting negotiations with people associated with the PLO. The differences are rather minute and will become even more so. There is no point denying this. Yet we are not conducting negotiations with the PLO as an organization. As to the people we do talk to, some of them are quite close to the PLO.

[Qital] Do you agree with the meetings the prime minister is holding, for example?

[Peres] Definitely. Why not? It is necessary to talk to every Palestinian residing in Judaea and Samaria without any preconditions, unless there are legal impediments—for example, if the individual is accused of participation in an illegal organization. All the other restrictions, whatever the opinions about such talks and whatever that individual's views or contacts may be, should not rule out negotiations or talks.

In general, it would be advisable to remember something we tend to forget, in terms of legality: The residents of the territories are not Israeli citizens. Israeli law does not apply to them. They are Jordanian citizens. Just as we meet with Egyptian citizens who talk to the PLO... [changes thought] Does Mubarak not talk to 'Arafat? Does the Egyptian foreign minister not talk to him, praising him and maintaining ties with him? Israeli law, therefore, applies only to Israelis. As to Jordanian or Egyptian citizens, we know that some of them are close to or maintain contacts with the PLO. Do we not know that there are Americans, Romanians, and others who talk to the PLO?

[Qital] What about internal relations in the cabinet? The crisis over the braces was eliminated this week, although I am not sure the crisis within the Likud is over. How does it affect the contacts?

[Peres] We do not deal with peacemaking among the other parties in Israel, only with the Palestinian people.

[Qital] I understand this, but one has an effect on the other.

[Peres] We have not passed the first test yet. This distinction between negotiations and talks... [changes thought] Incidentally, let me make it absolutely clear that it is important for us to enter negotiations out of the hope that calm will prevail in the territories. Nowhere has one been made conditional on the other. It is imperative that we be clear about it, regardless of the identity of the speaker. There is no condition linking the talks to an end to the intifadah [uprising], for the simple reason that whoever makes them conditional upon the termination of the intifadah is actually handing the fate of the negotiations over to the most extremist Palestinians. If Hawatimah decided to continue the intifadah, would that put an end to negotiations? This is stupid. There is therefore no need to distinguish between negotiations or talks or contacts. They are all the same. In the negotiating process, too, we will talk to Palestinians who do not take part in terrorism, Palestinians who live in the territories. This is stipulated in the peace initiative. Everything included in the Likud's resolutions is actually null and void.

[Qital] We have heard about a meeting scheduled for the beginning of next week between the foreign ministers of the two major superpowers, Baker and Shevardnadze. Delegates on your behalf have also held contacts with Soviet representatives. Where does the Soviet Union stand now in regard to the Israeli initiative?

[Peres] As I understand it, the Soviet Union feels first of all that it fulfills a very important role insofar as the Palestinians are concerned and that it was responsible for persuading them to begin talks. It does not fully comprehend our positions, thinking that it can play a far more active role in the peace process than it has to date.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] All the best.

Olmert on 'Arafat's 'Gimmick'

TA2807115789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Minister Without Portfolio Ehud Olmert by moderator Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpt] [Qital] Good afternoon, Minister Olmert.

[Olmert] Peace.

[Qital] I presume you have read Yasir 'Arafat's four points very carefully. How do you feel about them? Is there anything new in them?

[Olmert] I feel nothing about them.

[Qital] Are they nothing?

[Olmert] I think it is a gimmick and that behind it lies unequivocal opposition to the Israeli initiative and an attempt to sabotage it. After all, the Israeli initiative is not some kind of feeble excuse for moves which we presented as the basis for negotiations with some external element. It is a comprehensive, consolidated initiative whose strength lies in the interrelationship between its various components. Can anyone imagine that Israel would withdraw prior to the opening of negotiations? Anyone calling for such a thing as good as says that he is not prepared to accept this plan. So why should I address other matters? It is enough to address this one. According to the Israeli initiative—and also according to the Camp David agreements—there is mention of a 5-year period of autonomy, during which the status of the Israeli presence in Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza would remain unchanged. Later, based on the arrangements reached regarding the permanent arrangement, all the other issues will be resolved. So if anyone comes and says that we must first accept a Palestinian state and actually withdraw from the territories... [changes thought] Clearly, the moment we withdraw there will be no agreement, no autonomy, no nothing. It is all a stragem, and not a very clever one at that. I do not think anyone should take it seriously.

[Qital] But you cannot expect 'Arafat to accept and publicly announce acceptance of the Israeli plan. Perhaps he issued a few extreme statements, among them one which the vice prime minister—who also rejected 'Arafat's four points—called positive. By that he meant the issue of elections in the territories. So perhaps we should look at this point.

[Olmert] I believe there is, unfortunately, a fundamental difference between the vice prime minister's approach and mine. I do not expect anything of 'Arafat. This is the truth.

[Qital] One must admit that the vice prime minister also rejected 'Arafat's remarks.

[Olmert] Fine, and if that is the case, why get into the question of whether 'Arafat concedes to offer some positive sign? It is immaterial. The important thing is what is actually happening here. We did not come up with this initiative with no greater expectations than that the PLO or 'Arafat would issue some signal or another in 2 or 3 months. This is an initiative offering a move which I consider to be serious. This seriousness lies specifically in the ramifications the prime minister's contacts with people from the territories have. If you will permit me, I would like to add one thing here, because it seems to me that one can discern here the buddings of a positive phenomenon. The man who conferred with the prime minister and who, of his own initiative, agreed to reveal his name, Al-Tarifi, said the following: I am not a PLO man. I never requested permission in advance, nor did I seek approval for the meeting after the fact.

[Qital] Are you sure this is so?

[Olmert] With your permission, this is what he said. He said so in public. Now 'Arafat says: We approved his meeting in advance. Why is he saying this? Because 'Arafat is, in my opinion, trying to jump on the bandwagon of a process of which he may well be losing control. The beautiful thing about this initiative, one must understand, is that it does not ultimately seek to put a kosher seal on negotiations with the PLO, but rather seeks to make it impossible for the PLO to constitute the element that will dictate the next moves. I believe these contacts certainly help widen this rift which we seek. The issue is complex, sensitive, and complicated. Progress will be made slowly. Nevertheless, what we have here is a tiny basis for optimism that there are elements in the area—and I am not addressing their views, which may be totally unacceptable to us or which may not be fundamentally politically different from the PLO's opinions—who are not necessarily PLO members and do not necessarily receive instructions from the PLO. Perhaps in the end they will be prepared to assume responsibility for conducting the negotiations on their behalf and on behalf of the people with whom they are living. This, in a nutshell, is the purpose of the political initiative. [passage omitted]

Further on Olmert's Views

TA2707180089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The U.S. Administration welcomed 'Arafat's apparent acceptance of elections with a statement to the effect that peace had never been nearer. But Minister Ehud Olmert, who is closely identified with Prime Minister Shamir's camp in the Likud, was vehement in his rejection of this position.

[Begin recording] [Olmert, broadcast in mid-sentence] ...not at all. I think that his statement proves that the PLO is totally opposed to the idea of elections. The idea of elections is not just an artificial idea. There is no talk of a Palestinian state, and there is no such precondition, and there is no possibility that such a precondition will exist. That is number one. Number two: The demand that Israeli soldiers will be withdrawn before elections is ridiculous. Israeli soldiers will stay in the territories throughout the period of the autonomy, and any such demand is proof that 'Arafat does not take it seriously. He is just trying to pose all kinds of obstacles that will disrupt this process instead of facilitating it. Therefore, I think that we have to proceed negotiating with local representatives, as we are doing already; prime minister, foreign minister and others. And I hope that the United States will stop this dialogue with the PLO which leads nowhere.

[Correspondent Le'a Zinder] And this despite the fact that the local representatives have made it clear that they will not make any decisions without the approval of the PLO?

[Olmert] Well... the fact remains that a few months ago everyone said that they will not even meet without the approval of the PLO, and now we see that they are meeting with us without the approval of the PLO, and they are ready to consider the election without the approval of the PLO, and I am sure that in due course they will be ready to cooperate on that basis. One must remember that the Palestinians have a serious and meaningful chance now. They can seize it or they can lose it. If they will lose it, this will be a setback for them for many years. So it is not an indefinite proposition, it is something that is confined in time—reasonable time—if they will come to terms with us we will run the elections which will benefit both sides. If they will not, there will be no elections and they will not gain anything. 'Arafat is out of the game. [end recording]

Shamir Attacks 'Defeatists,' Rejects Compromise

TA2707175489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that peace can be achieved without relinquishing an inch of Eretz Yisra'el. Speaking before a group of rabbis in Jerusalem, Shamir added that peace is not a monopoly of traitors, defeatists, and capitulators. This is a quote from the prime minister's statements. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was in the audience.

[Begin recording] [Golan] The forum is that of supporters of greater Eretz Yisra'el: Rabbis from the NRP [National Religious Party], the chief rabbis, Gush Emunim activists, and the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was completely at home. He told his listeners that he was convinced that they would fight any tendency to give up parts of Eretz Yisra'el. Shamir added that there is no contradiction between peace and greater Eretz Yisra'el. Shamir said that this is a known lie.

[Shamir, picked up in midsentence] ...this is what I told our friends in the United States, and the leaders of the largest friendly country in the world, who tried to convince me to include in the initiative—as one of its principles—an agreement to give up parts of Eretz Yisra'el, even though this was only implied. Namely, in diplomatic terms, territories for peace or something similar. I categorically rejected this with all my heart. Because I declare and believe that it is really and truly possible, and necessary, to achieve peace without relinquishing, God forbid, the smallest fraction of the apple of our eye, the land of our fathers, our holy land.

[Golan] Shamir said that some people worry that a person such as himself is dealing with the peace initiative and negotiating with our enemies. They fear that we are talking about compromise and withdrawal. I dare, said Shamir, to calm those people who are so anxious. After this allusion to his critics in the Likud and the far right Shamir moves on to deal with those who call for territorial compromise.

[Shamir] Peace is not a monopoly of traitors, defeatists, and capitulators [applause]. According to my understanding, even in the second stage of the peace initiative—as we introduced and continue to promote it—during negotiations in which we will discuss the permanent solution with our neighbors, and during which, God willing, we will achieve this solution, even then this solution will not include any territorial component.

[Golan] In conclusion, Shamir made a unequivocal promise to the settlers, whose representatives were in the audience.

[Shamir] We will support them, we will strengthen their spirits, we will stand at their side, we will promote their cause, and we will build many Jewish settlements throughout all of Eretz Yisra'el. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1700 GMT on 27 July adds that Shamir was questioned immediately after the speech by reporter Mark Weiss who asked whether there was a contradiction between following the peace process, and insisting on no territorial compromise. Shamir replied in English, "There is not any contradiction. I don't see any territorial element in the permanent solution that will come after our negotiations for peace with our Arab neighbors. There could be other solutions, I don't believe that there is any territorial solution." When asked for an example of other solutions the prime minister refused to provide one. Shamir is

then asked about reports of a four-point plan raised by Yasir 'Arafat, to which he replied, "I don't know about his plans and about his paragraphs, it doesn't interest me."]

Rabin Interviewed on Talks With Palestinians
TA2707182889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Shlomo Ganor and Yoni Ben-Menahem on 27 July in the studio—on the weekly "Meeting" program, in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles; recorded]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr Defense Minister, good evening.

[Rabin] Good evening to you and the viewers.

[Ganor] This week has been highlighted by the talks being held by the prime minister and the foreign minister with various figures in the territories. You have also been holding talks. The question is: Who are the people you have been meeting?

[Rabin] Indeed, I have and will continue to hold talks with figures from the territories in a bid to explain to them and persuade them that it is in both our interests to move from a violent conflict to talks, because only through talks can peace and a solution of the Palestinian problem be promoted. As a rule, I am not in the habit of publicizing the identity, venue, and contents of these meetings because I respect the wishes of the people involved. If they want to publicize them, that is their right. As long as it is agreed that we are not publicizing them, the agreement should be honored.

I take a very positive view of these talks, and I consider it an activity which could or should promote the implementation of the peace initiative decided by the cabinet in May, and ratified last Sunday. The key to the successful implementation of the initiative is locating a partner to negotiations with Israel among the inhabitants of the territories, because in the absence of such a partner there will be no initiative or peace process. The Palestinians will then lose a rare opportunity to promote their interests and attain far more than what they have today.

[Ganor] Have the people you have been conferring with reacted positively to your proposal?

[Rabin] I have conferred with people from all sides of the conceptual spectrum in the territories, from Islamic fundamentalists to the most moderate figures. All the colors of the spectrum have been represented in the talks, including those who have spent long months in detention in Qezi'ot. I saw nothing wrong with inviting them after their release, seeing that they did not return to either agitating or organizing violent activities. I heard all sorts of views. To draw you a picture, based on all the sources I believe that there is a realization and desire on the part

of the inhabitants of the territories to move the conflict from violence in the street to the negotiating table. I also believe that we will reach that through the process we are now going through.

I have received a proposal from a certain Arab country to present us with a list of Palestinian figures and begin the process the next day. They propose somebody from the outside, and we do not agree to that. I still believe that it is possible to implement the peace initiative that has only one addressee: The Palestinian inhabitants of the territories.

[Ben-Menahem] Still, Mr Rabin, do you think the people you and the prime minister have been meeting constitute the real leadership of the territories?

[Rabin] I do not think anybody can answer that categorically. I think that in the present circumstances a group of leaders, who represent the variety of views upheld by the entire population, must have the guts to step forward and say, to the Palestinians in the territories as well: We want to make progress toward a political solution. We take upon ourselves the initial stage of contacts, talks, negotiations; whatever you want to call them. That stage should result in an agreement in principle on the political process, of which elections is only one component, and on the modalities [last word in English] of the elections. They must tell the inhabitants of the territories: The negotiations following elections will be conducted by the leadership elected by us, from our midst. But elections cannot be the first step. Therefore, those who have the guts to step forward—with the approval of the Arab countries, the United States, and with our approval, first and foremost—must say: We constitute the bridge which will lead to a leadership. As is the case anywhere in the world, the most authentic leadership is that which is elected by the entire population.

[Ben-Menahem] And if that is the Unified National Command of the Uprising, will you be prepared to negotiate with them?

[Rabin] I do not know and I do not want to go into names of all sorts of bodies. Anyone elected in the territories, by and among the inhabitants of the territories, will be acceptable to me as the leadership.

[Ganor] Is such a group of people capable of taking upon itself the leadership of the emerging process?

[Rabin] This is a process, and not an easy one at that. One must bear in mind what has happened since the beginning of the uprising in the territories: For the first time since 15 May 1948 the Palestinians in the territories are the ones leading the struggle for the fate and future of the territories. That took almost 40 years to happen. Secondly, they are the ones who suffer.

They have been gaining stature—both vis-a-vis Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, or elsewhere—and this is a significant political fact. Nevertheless, their representatives have not yet had any experience in leadership, and that process is now under way. It takes time, but I see it developing, not totally isolated from Palestinian elements outside the territories, independent of them, or without contacts with other Arab countries. The process has been developing in terms of defining the addressee, the partner. I would like it to develop more speedily because it is still proceeding very slowly, but I believe it is going in the right direction.

[Ganor] Does it include new faces?

[Rabin] Some of them are new faces, some of them are younger men who acquired their status as a result of their activities in the last 21 months.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Minister, you said you are not in the habit of publicizing the contents of your meetings with Palestinian leaders. Is this criticism of the publicity given to the prime minister's meetings with figures in the territories? Do you think it affected or sabotaged the dialogue?

[Rabin] I am convinced that the prime minister did not want the publicity, and he was not involved in leaking the report. I do not know who leaked it, but that is what happened. I do not think it should disrupt the continuation of the talks. We must see to keeping our part of the agreement not to leak to the media.

[Ganor] Mr Rabin, it is no secret that there are differences of opinion about the nature of the talks. How would you describe the talks? Are they direct or indirect negotiations with the PLO? [Rabin] The dialogue and negotiations are with the inhabitants of the territories because we regard them as the addressee. It is from them that we want a responsible answer. I have no doubt that they talk to elements in the Arab world, first of all with the Arab countries. We place no restrictions on the people they talk to when they travel abroad. If they ask our approval to talk to the PLO, our response is negative. At the same time, I do not want to ignore the fact that they have contacts with various elements throughout the world. As long as they remain the addressee and the partner to talks, I think that is the answer to the question.

[Ganor] And it does not matter if they get the green light for those meetings from PLO-Tunis?

[Rabin] I do not know whether they do or do not receive their approval. I believe they usually manage to relay the content of the talks to elements outside the territories. As long as they remain the partner with whom we will make an agreement, I think this is okay and compatible with the cabinet decision. This is not an Israeli-PLO dialogue, but rather seeing the Palestinians in the field as the addressee. So long as they remain the addressee, that is fine.

[Ben-Menahem] But they tell you they are not the addressee. When they meet you they say the PLO is the only addressee.

[Rabin] The moment they come to the conclusion—and I believe it will ultimately happen—that they are the addressee, that is when the negotiations will really start. These negotiations would initially be on the comprehensive nature of the initiative, and would later deal with the details of the method of elections. After all, one cannot reach an agreement on elections through talks or contacts. Such an agreement must culminate in numerous working papers dealing with the modalities [last word in English], voting rights, election committees, election districts, ballot stations—we know what democratic elections involve!—and what is permitted or not permitted in election propaganda. All these issues have to be concluded with the help of legal experts in order to agree on elections. That is why we in the Labor Party, in view of what happened in the Likud Central Committee session, objected and demanded a ratification and endorsement of the cabinet decision. After all, we will never reach an agreement on elections without orderly negotiations. That is why negotiations are a prerequisite for elections.

[Ben-Menahem] How do you explain the fact that the PLO has refrained from lashing out at the meetings held with the prime minister, whereas in the past it did come out against them?

[Rabin] I believe the weight carried by the Palestinian leadership in the territories—or rather by the Palestinian population in the territories conducting the uprising and suffering as a result—has increased significantly. We must not forget that they are the largest Palestinian group. They live in an area which they call Palestine, that is to say Eretz Yisra'el. That is why they carry far more weight today in establishing facts. I will not elaborate. There have been those who dared to step out in public and present their own plan. Although these plans are not exactly along the same lines of ours, in principle they see the elections as a lever toward the beginning of a process, and they agree to proceed toward a final solution in stages. I have heard as much, and not just from one or two of the leaders in the territories. I will certainly not mention them by name. Those who wanted to voice their plans in public did just that.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you mean to say that there were others, in addition to As'ad Saftawi?

[Rabin] There have been others who presented their plans in writing.

[Ganor] Mr Rabin, is it pure coincidence that Saftawi and Yasir 'Arafat were both in Cairo at the same time?

[Rabin] I do not know whether this was purely coincidental. Mr Saftawi applied to the Civil Administration for a permit to travel to Egypt. The permit was issued 1

and ½ months prior to his departure. He received a negative answer to his question on whether he could go to Tunis to meet PLO men.

[Ben-Menahem] Did he meet 'Arafat on behalf of Israel?

[Rabin] To the best of my knowledge we have never empowered anybody to meet PLO men. Such an emissary has never been sent on behalf of Israel. There have been reports in which Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah argued that I allegedly sent him to meet the PLO. That was not true. I merely explained the peace initiative to him, as well as other issues which are public knowledge. If he saw fit to say that I sent him, that is his problem and not mine.

The same logic applies to our talks with the Americans in which we explain our peace initiative. As is known, the Americans are in contact with the PLO and they probably relay the Israeli position in addition to their own observations. Today everything is reported in the international and Israeli press, and everything is out in the open. There are, however, no indirect negotiations with the PLO.

[Ben-Menahem] In your opinion, what does the fact that 'Arafat has shown interest in As'ad Saftawi's plan indicate?

[Rabin] I think it is important, first and foremost, because he is a Palestinian who was detained in Qezi'ot. He was released, and there is no case against him at present. He dared come out with a plan which admittedly is not our plan, but neither is it the PLO plan. The plan includes key elements of the Israeli peace initiative, as well as additions that are unacceptable to us.

Gentlemen, our initiative cannot be accepted all in one go, it is a process. It is a fact that this man stepped forward, and there are others who do not dare yet, but quietly say the same things. I believe others will follow if they want to end their misery and start on the road of a political solution. They will get nothing from us by means of stones and firebombs. Many are beginning to realize that they are the ones who are suffering. Even if they inflict casualties on us, Israel is strong enough to resist stones, firebombs, and atrocious murders. We have been through far worse experiences, and they know it. It is a process that takes time, but the time will eventually come.

[Ganor] The prime minister talked about the role of the United States last night. He said he hoped it will manage to persuade other Arab countries to join the peace process. At the beginning of this interview you also mentioned a certain Arab country, and although you did not say its name I suppose you were referring to Egypt. Do you pin any hopes on the ability of the United States to recruit other countries into the initiative?

[Rabin] I do not know exactly what the prime minister meant, whether he meant other countries making peace with Israel or countries supporting the main gist of the Israeli initiative, which is whether or not a partner will be found among the inhabitants of the territories for a dialogue with us according to the principles of our initiative. If you ask me about that certain country—I will not go into detail, although I am almost telling you—that has been raising proposals, I will tell you that it is a country with which we live in peace. I think the chances of other Arab countries making peace with us before we start the process with the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories in accordance with the peace initiative are almost nil at present. I do not see any Arab country not sharing a border with us leaping at the chance to make peace with Israel before we have budged the Palestinian problem. Jordan dissociated itself from the territories in July 1988. A Jordanian option had existed prior to that, but it came to an end in July 1988. Does anybody conceive of Jordan suddenly backtracking? I would be very happy to see that, but it is unrealistic and not what we should concentrate our efforts on. Anybody who thinks Syria will suddenly come to negotiations on peace, before the process of solving the Palestinian problem has begun, is also mistaken. As for Iraq, I am not expecting anything from it at the moment.

Therefore, it is best for the Israeli Government to concentrate on the main problem. Whether we like it or not, the Israeli-Palestinian problem is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict at present. The key to a solution lies in the gist of our initiative: Finding a Palestinian partner to negotiations. Any other approach will yield no results if we do not attain the main goal, which I consider the chief element of the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

[Ben-Menahem] Does the dialogue between the United States and the PLO not have an adverse effect on Israel's talks with the leaders from the territories?

[Rabin] The Israeli Government has its own position about the U.S.-PLO dialogue. I was asked about it during my visit there. I said the government is opposed to it, and I further told my interlocutors in the U.S. State Department: Were I American, I would see the question differently.

I told them: You say you take a positive view of the Israeli peace initiative, and see it as the only serious political process on the market. You are also ready to help realize the initiative, that is, find a Palestinian partner among the inhabitants of the territories. My question would be: Has your dialogue with the PLO achieved these objectives? If the answer were affirmative my attitude would be different, but so far this dialogue has not achieved anything. As to whether it helps or not, the test lies in whether it will bring about the location of a Palestinian partner among the inhabitants of the territories.

The Americans do not need our approval, our position is known. Were I a congressman or senator, I would ask the administration a simple question: Has this dialogue advanced your positions and your willingness to help realize the initiative or not?

[Ganor] Mr Rabin, how would you explain the fact that the Americans also reject the Israeli argument that the PLO is pursuing terrorism, despite its declaration last December?

[Rabin] Look, our objection to negotiations with the PLO stems not only from its involvement in terrorism. Let me say this: More than this point of terrorism, my opposition to talks with that organization stems from 'Arafat's demands, from which he never budged in any of his public appearances—neither in his speech before the UN General Assembly in Geneva, nor in his news conference, nor anywhere. He presented three goals: National self-determination; a Palestinian state in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip; and the right of return. I firmly oppose all three demands. This is the main reason why I object to negotiations with the PLO in Tunis. From the Israeli point of view, negotiations with the PLO in Tunis constitute one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarters acceptance of these PLO goals. I am against them.

By the same token, it is inconceivable that a political process that would result in a peace process along our eastern border, namely with Egypt [as heard], and would resolve the Palestinian problem can be launched without the participation of the 1.5 million Palestinians residing in the territories in that process.

[Ganor] Speaking of the residents of the territories, has the level of violence we have witnessed during the past 20 months waned?

[Rabin] Look, I would like to warn against either getting hysterical, believing that the level of violence has been increasing, or getting overly self-confident, believing that it has been on the decline for some time. When I analyze the situation insofar as our confrontation with the uprising in the territories is concerned, I review it against the goals I set for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]: lowering the level of violence to effect calm and allow the Civil Administration and the local authorities to function. These are my criteria. The large violent demonstrations have almost ceased. The talk about civil disobedience has stopped and can hardly be heard. No one believes that such a thing is possible.

The problem of stone throwing, however, still remains. It constitutes between 85 and 95 percent of all the violent incidents. Yet this, too, has decreased somewhat, although we have not yet achieved the goal I set for the IDF and the other security branches. There are signs that the atmosphere is getting calmer, that there is currently a

greater desire to change the process from a violent confrontation to a political solution. We have not achieved the goal yet, either in the political or in the (?defense) sphere.

[Ben-Menahem] How can we accelerate that process, sir?

[Rabin] Sir, it takes patience and perseverance. There are no magic formulas. We have learned that in trying to combat such phenomena, the attempt to sell the dream that terrorism and violence can be eliminated and that the intifadah can be quelled amounts to nothing. It is hogwash. Such comments cannot be taken seriously. We saw how terrorism was liquidated in Lebanon. The cost of the war against terrorism from Lebanon is currently 4-7 times that of the cost prior to the 1982 war in Lebanon. Did we manage to eliminate terrorism there? I therefore say: Let us have patience and perseverance and show readiness to tolerate it, despite the pain involved. All those who sell the illusion that there are magic formulas merely sow frustration in the nation, because these illusions have absolutely no basis in reality. These people would be well advised to let up. The cabinet, for its part, will pursue its path steadfastly until we achieve our goals.

[Ganor] Mr Rabin, we are running out of time. Still, let me ask you this: In light of the positive reaction to the reopening of the schools, do you plan to make further gestures toward the inhabitants?

[Rabin] Here, too, I would exercise caution in rushing to draw conclusions based on the experience of 4 days. We reopened the first six grades plus the twelfth grade. We have not set a date, nor did I approve one, for the reopening of the other classes. That date will be set in accordance with the level of quiet that will be maintained not only over 5 days, but over 2 or 3 weeks. I hope it will work.

I would like to take this opportunity to address the Palestinian residents of the territories and tell them the following: The Government of Israel made a generous offer. This is an opportunity you have never had before, either under Jordanian or under Egyptian rule. It is a proposal that will allow us all to embark on the path of peace and allow you to establish yourselves as the Palestinian entity in the territories, engaged in a direct dialogue with Israel. I believe that this is a unique opportunity. Do not repeat the past mistakes committed by yourselves and your leaders. I believe that it is possible to find a solution involving an honorable coexistence as two entities: yours and the State of Israel. For your own good, exploit this special, historic opportunity!

[Ganor] Thank you, Mr Rabin, for being with us. On behalf of my colleague and myself, let me thank you once again.

Arens: Palestinian Support for PLO Limited
TA2807045389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, sir.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Golan] Did you hear Yasir 'Arafat's four-stage plan? Did you find even one encouraging sentence or clause in it?

[Arens] Look, we pay no attention to the PLO. We do not regard it as partner to negotiations, not even a potential partner. Certainly the PLO has been trying to assume patronage over the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. We should not assist it in that. We want to talk directly to the Arab countries and to representatives who will be elected by the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

[Golan] Like the prime minister, you also talk to Palestinian representatives from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Arens] That is correct.

[Golan] As far as we know, all of them—including Attorney al-Tarifi—ultimately direct you to the PLO. Furthermore, 'Arafat now says that he allowed Al-Tarifi to meet with the prime minister.

[Arens] From listening to you, one would think that you were present at the meetings I have held.

[Golan] Unfortunately, this is not the case.

[Arens] Or that you heard what I was told. None of the people I met with, however, told me such things.

[Golan] Have you talked to Palestinians who are not members of the PLO? I do not mean ones who are not professed members—that is a given; you would not have met with them—but who do not even espouse the PLO's views.

[Arens] I have certainly met with individuals who never stressed their sympathy for the PLO. In some cases I could sense the concern, or even fear, that some of them feel about the terrorism in which the PLO is currently engaged in the territories. I could gather from such manifestations that the support for the PLO is quite limited.

[Golan] But if they are afraid of the PLO, one can assume that they will also be afraid to present themselves as delegates to negotiations?

[Arens] That is definitely a pressing problem, and we must restore order. The defense establishment is carrying out this important mission. Furthermore, we must also create an atmosphere in which people will be prepared to proceed in a free and democratic way toward elections. This is one of the main objectives of the talks we are currently holding. I believe we will achieve this.

[Golan] Even though Minister Moda'i claimed last week that it would be naive to claim that the people you meet with are not PLO sympathizers?

[Arens] Look, I believe we are doing the country a disservice by helping the PLO create the impression that all the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District are PLO supporters. This is simply not true. It does not surprise me that 'Arafat wants to create such an impression, but I do not think we should help him.

[Golan] You know that to a certain extent, Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i—known as the three brace-imposing ministers—also agree that meetings with the Palestinians at this point in time actually encourage terrorism. Minister Sharon reiterated this argument last night again.

[Arens] I heard that, but I think it is a grave mistake. Perhaps some people think that we must simply not talk to the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. I am surprised that members of the movement that believe we should not pull out of these areas and must continue to maintain control over them should express such views. How can we continue to hold onto these territories if we do not talk to the people who live there?

[Golan] Perhaps Minister Sharon has voiced this argument because he wants to bring about the prime minister's downfall, as Minister Ehud Olmert put it yesterday?

[Arens] I do not know and would not like to speculate on the motive behind these remarks. I do, however, think that they are simply untrue. I believe that perhaps one of the most grievous errors in the past 20 years was our failure to converse with the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. They worked in Israel, witnessed the Israeli democracy on television, and heard Israel Radio broadcasts, yet we never talked to them. If we want to coexist, we must talk.

[Golan] Minister Arens, next week John Kelly, the new head of the State Department's Middle East Branch, will come here. Do you believe that this visit will promote the peace initiative? We recall, in fact, that despite our adamant opposition, the United States continues to hold a very lively dialogue with the PLO in Tunis.

[Arens] I think that meetings between friends who share a common goal—in this case the promotion of peace—are always positive. I am pleased that we have the opportunity to influence the Americans.

[Golan] But so far we have been unsuccessful in that.

[Arens] Look, I would not say that, because I believe the United States is undergoing a very substantial change. I do not know that many people in Israel ever expected it.

[Golan] And yet Pelletreau continues to hold his meetings.

[Arens] Indeed, but at the same time the Senate passed a majority decision—and the administration took note of that resolution—that no talks should be held with PLO personalities responsible for the murder or kidnapping of Americans. I do not know that many Israelis expected such a change to take place, and it is substantial indeed. This is not yet the end of the road and we have not yet persuaded the Americans of everything, but I think this constitutes great progress.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Minister Arens.

[Arens] Thank you.

General Staff To Pursue Submarine Project
LD2707204189 Hamburg DPA in German 1952 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Tel Aviv (DPA)—Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Israeli General Staff, following months of often-fierce debate, today resolved to continue an armaments project that provides for the construction of two submarines in the FRG. This was reported from Defense Ministry circles in Tel Aviv. The submarines are diesel-driven and cost DM800 million each. The FRG and Israel have reached an agreement in principle on the project already.

The decision was preceded by months of controversial debate, during which the other branches of the military pleaded against the project on account of its high cost and because of the current financial problems. On the other hand, Rabin was of the opinion that the plan should not be abandoned. Israel possesses three out-of-date British submarines. At the beginning of the week the Defense Ministry received a budgetary supplement equivalent to DM150 million for this year.

1 Killed, 1 Wounded in Tulkarm; Curfew Imposed
TA2707141889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Twenty-one-year-old Muhammad Safuri was killed this afternoon by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire in the Tulkarm refugee camp. An 11-year-old boy was wounded. The hospital in Tulkarm reported the dead man, and the IDF is looking into the circumstances of his death. A curfew has been imposed on the camp.

The Civil Administration building was inaugurated today in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Hamas Patrols Maintain Order in Hebron Schools
TA2707152189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
27 Jul 89 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, and David Hayun]

[Excerpt] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement in Hebron has in the last few days set up patrols whose job is to ascertain that studies proceed in an orderly manner. Arab sources say the guards position themselves near schoolyards, and drive away people who try to disrupt studies. Sources in the town say that the guards threaten to beat up any person trying to create a disturbance. Schools in Hebron have in the last few days received letters, bearing different signatures, calling on principals to prohibit any study whatsoever. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports PLO Drops Dinar in Transfers
TA2807103689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 28 Jul 89 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The PLO has stopped transferring money to the territories through Jordan and has stopped using the Jordanian dinar. For over 1 month the PLO has been transferring U.S. dollars to the territories via checks drawn up by the European branches of the Arab Bank.

Arab civil servants employed by the Civil Administration still receive their salaries from the PLO through Jordan. These salaries are paid in dinars, in accordance with a special agreement between the PLO and Jordan, but this sum is insignificant.

The PLO's decision to start using dollars has both political and economic significance. From the political standpoint, this move reduces the extent of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Economically, the step was necessary because of the steady drop in value of the Jordanian dinar, which is now equal to approximately \$1 compared to more than \$3 in previous years.

Arabs Citizens Arrested in Israeli Dinar 'Plot'
*JN2807095289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT
28 Jul 89*

[Text] Amman, 27 Jul (WAKH)—The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] governor today accused Israel of attempting to shake Jordan's economic stability over the past few days. In a lecture he delivered in Amman tonight, Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi said that during the past few days Israel purchased Jordanian dinars from citizens in the occupied territory after propagating that Jordan intends to devalue or change its currency.

The CBJ governor noted that Israel once again transferred these amounts to Jordan with the help of some Arab citizens. This, he added, resulted in a drop in the value of the Jordanian dinar against other currencies.

The CBJ governor affirmed that the Arab citizens responsible for helping Israel implement this plot were arrested and are being interrogated. He added that the situation has returned to normal.

Al-Nabulsi on Banks' Two-Price Foreign Currency
*JN2807093089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
28 Jul 89 pp 1, 17*

[By Muhammad Amin]

[Text] Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], has said that the real growth of the Jordanian economy continues to lie in achieving the aspired monetary stability through rebuilding the CBJ's hard currency reserves.

In a lecture at Shuman Foundation last night, Al-Nabulsi added that the occupation authorities' tendentious campaigns have fed and fanned the fire of rumors that expected further devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. He said there are plans to set up an interest support fund despite the existence of interest support for the export sector.

Dr al-Nabulsi added that the general economic policy will concentrate on achieving reasonable growth rates as of 1990. He said the CBJ has started work on a bill to issue special bonds to which subscriptions will be made in foreign currency and whose value and interest will also be paid in foreign currency.

Al-Nabulsi indicated that the Jordanian economy is suffering from the following four problems: reduction in real growth rates and increase in unemployment; foreign indebtedness; the domestic financial control; and the balance of payments.

He said the key factor to overcome these problems and move to the stage of real economic growth continues to lie in achieving monetary stability.

Concluding, Al-Nabulsi said: "I am confident that it is possible to attain this target with the efforts of the sincere people of this country under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, the guardian of our pan-Arab march."

Following his lecture, Dr al-Nabulsi stated that the principle of having two prices for foreign currencies at the commercial banks will be entrenched within a few days. He told reporters there will be a price for the foreign currencies the CBJ supplies to commercial banks for the purpose of importing some basic foodstuffs and covering some needs, such as those of our students abroad. This will be the price the CBJ fixes daily according to the dinar's link to the basket of currencies.

There will be another price for foreign currencies used for imports and other needs. It will be based on how much foreign currencies cost banks. This will enable banks to vie with one another to attract clients. Thus, the market's sound factors will be the real indicator fixing the exchange price.

In a related remark, Dr al-Nabulsi said the CBJ supplied the local banks with \$2 million the day before yesterday to meet the needs of students abroad. He indicated that the CBJ will inspect the banks' conditions and method of work in the near future.

Popular Democratic Party Reportedly Formed
*JN2707114289 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 26 Jul 89*

[Text] It has been announced in Amman that a new party called the Popular Democratic Party [al-Hizb al-Dimuqrati al-Sha'bi] has been formed in Jordan. This party is affiliated to the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] under Nayif Hawatimah. Reporting this today, REUTERS added that the new party will work to protect human rights and lift the suffering of the poor classes of people in Jordan.

Editorial Says Visas 'Helping Jordan Cope'
*JN2707182289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Jul 89 p 4*

[Editorial: "Shallow Foundation"]

[Text] Some Jordanians are being bothered by the sight of long queues of young people applying for visas to travel to foreign lands. Such short-sighted people hold the artificial view that the sight of long queues of applicants for opportunities in foreign lands reflect badly on the Kingdom. The rationale behind their negative outlook and interpretation rests on the shallow foundation that the great number of Jordanians wanting to start their fortunes, whether educational or economic, elsewhere, signifies that all is not well in the country. In other words, the departing Jordanians are seen as casting a vote of no confidence in their own country.

In fact nothing more can be further from the truth. Given the fact that the country's economy is undergoing adjustments and that job and business opportunities are not abundant as they once were, and given the fact that the educational opportunities at the post-high school level are considerably less than needed to cope with the ever-increasing Jordanian student population, it is quite natural that so many Jordanians want to temporarily try their luck outside their own country. Accordingly, the real reasons behind the new wave of exodus lie in the fact that it offers many positive returns for the country when it cannot afford to handle all the educational and economic needs of all of its people. One dare say that the greater majority of such migrating people are projected to return with new skills and financial capabilities to build up their country. Given the social fabric of this country, our young women and men, who leave behind their homeland and loved ones, will always be gravitated back to their roots and country. Of course there will always be some who will opt not to return to their country, but fortunately their number is insignificant in comparison with the vast majority who will return. In any case, the right to leave one's country and to return to it is one of the most fundamental human rights.

As for the foreign embassies that process the many Jordanian applications to go abroad, they are always viewed with suspicion. In many ways they find themselves in a no-win situation. If they expedite the travel to their respective countries they stand to be accused of

hurting the national interest by expediting the brain drain process. If they do not facilitate such travel, they are still accused of discriminating against Jordanians and of putting inhuman obstacles in their path.

On balance, foreign countries are helping Jordan cope with its needs at a time when it is most urgently needed. As long as our people return to their country, one should not panic at the sight of Jordanians seeking to explore their fortunes elsewhere for the time being.

Al-Qasim Receives Visiting CSSR Official

*JN2707175489 Amman Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 27 Jul 89*

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Marwan al-Qasim, received at his office this morning the under secretary of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The Czechoslovak official earlier discussed with the Foreign Ministry secretary general aspects of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and the latest developments in the region, particularly as regards the Palestinian issue.

The Jordanian official voiced appreciation for Czechoslovakia's support of Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian people's cause.

Israeli Troops Raid South; Seize Shi'ite Leader
NC2807052789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] In the south, an Israeli military force this morning carried out a quick landing operation in Jibshit. An Israeli helicopter landed in Wadi al-Wata and Israeli troops entered Jibshit where they burst into the home of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and abducted him and two other citizens, Ahmad 'Ubayd and Hashim Fahs. The Israelis also tied up Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim's wife and locked her up in a room. Before withdrawing, the Israeli force killed citizen Mazin Abu-Zayd who had rushed to the scene of the operation. The force withdraw after the 2-hour operation, taking with it the three kidnapped people.

In another development, Israeli military planes overflew Sidon at dawn, firing illumination flares.

Further on Raid

NC2807053889 Paris AFP in English 0528 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 28 (AFP)—An Israeli commando kidnapped a pro-Iranian religious leader in an overnight raid into southern Lebanon, security sources in the area said Friday [28 July].

The commando landed by helicopter at around 3.00 a.m. (00.00 GMT) east of the town of Nabatiyah, 80 kms (50 miles) south-east of Beirut, and seized Hizballah (Party of God) dignitary Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, imam of the village of Jibshit in territory held by the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Amal Movement, the sources said. The area is controlled by the rival Shi'ite group Amal.

The commando, carrying revolvers with silencers, also seized the religious leader's nephew and another member of his family, after entering his home and tying up his wife. They shot and killed an inhabitant of the village who tried to intervene as they were returning to their helicopter.

Shaykh 'Ubayd, aged about 30, had been linked with a number of kidnappings, including that of Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Higgins, a U.S. officer attached to a United Nations surveillance group for the truce with Israel in Lebanon. Lt.-Col Higgins was kidnapped on February 17, 1988.

A spokesman for Hizballah, which openly supported that abduction, confirmed in Beirut Friday that the shaykh had been kidnapped.

More on Abduction

NC2807104389 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Jibshit, Lebanon, July 28 (AFP)—An Israeli commando kidnapped a pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim religious leader and two bodyguards in an overnight helicopter raid into south Lebanon, local security sources said Friday.

A neighbour in the village of Jibshit was killed as soldiers dragged away Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the local imam and a leader of the Shi'ite militia Hizballah, the sources said.

Several dozens soldiers, equipped with revolvers with silencers, landed near here by helicopter before dawn and entered on foot into Jibshit, a Hizballah stronghold, the sources said.

The commando circled his home and seized the imam as well as his two guards after tying up his wife, they said. A resident of Jibshit was shot dead when he tried to intervene as the soldiers returned to the helicopter.

One of the two other people seized, Ahmad 'Ubayd, was also identified as the religious leader's nephew.

The village, 80 kilometres (50 miles) southeast of Beirut and 15 kilometres (10 miles) outside Israel's "security zone" in the south that runs along the border with Israel, lies in a region controlled by Amal, a rival Shi'ite group.

Shaykh 'Ubayd, aged about 30, has been linked with a number of kidnappings, including that of Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Higgins, a U.S. officer attached to the United Nations who was seized in south Lebanon on February 17, 1988.

A spokesman for Hizballah—which together with the shaykh openly supported that abduction, accusing the officer of spying for the CIA—confirmed in Beirut that the shaykh had been kidnapped.

But a military spokesman in Israel, contacted by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, declined to confirm or deny the latest kidnapping. "We are investigating this affair," he said.

"Four Israeli soldiers knocked at my door and asked where was Shaykh 'Ubayd," said the brother of the fundamentalist leader, who lives on the second floor of the same building.

"They then forced open the door of the first floor, entered my brother's bedroom and tied up his wife as she tried to call for help as well his five children who are aged between seven years old and three months," he said.

A neighbour roused by the noise of the 15-minute operation was shot dead "in cold blood" by soldiers emerging from the house, he added.

The Amal militia said its fighters fired anti-tank rockets at the helicopter as it was taking off, while the Israeli troops retaliated with rounds of heavy machine gun fire.

"We were expecting the Israelis to do something," one resident said as villagers gathered around the body of the dead man. "For the last four or five days, pilotless reconnaissance planes have been flying over the village."

IRNA Reports Kidnapping

LD2807100489 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 28, IRNA—An Israeli commando unit abducted a [words indistinct] early in the morning Friday.

Initial reports said the commandos, flown in with a helicopter which landed near the village of Jibshit, surrounded the home of the Friday prayer leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

The shaykh and two others, Ahmad 'Ubayd and Hashim Fahas [name as received], were captured and forced into the helicopter. The shaykh's wife hands and feet were tied up. One of the shaykh's neighbors who witnessed the raid was shot dead with a pistol equipped with a silencer.

The village located between the villages of Iba and Doyer north of an Israeli-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, is known for resisting Zionist troops.

The previous Friday prayer leader, Shaykh Ragheb Harb, was martyred by Zionist forces several years ago and his home was destroyed.

Amal Issues Statement

NC2807090289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Amal Movement operations room in the south has issued the following statement on the Israeli operation and the kidnapping of the Jibshit imam:

Shortly after midnight Thursday, Israeli enemy helicopters, backed up by warplanes, attempted to land in Jibshit under cover of intensive fire. The enemy troops managed to land in the area after a violent confrontation involving various types of weapons with the movement's fighters, particularly in the area that was the scene of the landing operation.

In the meantime, troops from the movement surrounded the area in which the Israelis landed. Following the confrontation, the enemy was compelled to evacuate the area by helicopter. It later transpired that the enemy managed to detain the imam of Jibshit town, 'Allamah

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd along with two citizens from the Fahs and 'Ubayd families. As a result of the confrontation, struggler Hasan Abu-Zayd was martyred and another citizen was slightly injured. The movement leadership has taken exceptional measures as a precaution.

Shi'ite Council Denounces Abduction

NC2807122889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has denounced the attack against the town of Jibshit. Council chairman Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din strongly condemned this violation of the freedom of His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, calling on the United Nations to condemn this criminal act and to intervene immediately to release him and those with him. He called on the international organizations concerned, foremost among them the International Red Cross, to intervene swiftly to ensure his safety and that of his companions.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din contacted Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss to urge the government to hold urgent talks with the UN secretary general, Lebanon's delegate to the Security Council, and the ambassadors of the five major states to lodge a protest over the matter and ask them to bring pressure to bear on Israel to release Shaykh 'Ubayd and his companions. The command of the international troops in the south will be approached for consultation on the necessary measures in such incidents.

For his part, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah condemned the detention of Shaykh 'Ubayd and called for expressing anger over this issue throughout Lebanese territory. He said that Israel, in carrying out this operation, seeks to create an atmosphere of horror and panic.

Shelling Reported During Night of 'Insanity'

NC2707213889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2115 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] We begin our newscast with a news report from the editor's desk: It is a night of insanity and violence. According to the latest reports, the B'abda periphery, al-Hazimiyah, central Jubayl, southern al-Matn, and central al-Matn and the al-Matn coast are coming under violent Syrian artillery.

It is a night of fire that the Syrian occupation is adding to its black record. This will only increase the Lebanese people's determination and adherence to liberation until they restore their land, sovereignty, and security.

Hundreds of Syrian shells have been falling on residential areas from al-Ashrafiyah, southern and central al-Matn, and the al-Matn coast up to the Kasrawan coast and central Kasrawan, and the Jubayl coast since 2150 today. Over 2,000 shells have fallen within 2 and ½ hours on

these areas, leaving further victims and devastation. So far it has not been possible to determine the number of casualties because of the bombardment's intensity.

7 Killed, 28 Wounded

NC2807062389 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0515 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Lebanese citizens spent 5 and ½ hours in shelters and underground last night to escape the bombardment that has turned one-quarter of Lebanon into an enormous ball of fire. Lebanese spent one of the worst nights of the war under a barrage of fire that enveloped Beirut, northern and southern al-Matn, Kasrawan, Jubayl, and the outskirts of the north, al-Biq'a, and the mountain. More than 4,000 shells fell on more than 70 townships and villages.

Due to the intensive shelling, security quarters have not been able to give an accurate casualty toll. According to a preliminary count, 7 were killed and 28 others wounded in both the eastern and western areas. [passage omitted]

3 PFLP Members Said Killed in Firefight

NC2707173089 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1630 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] announced this afternoon that the Khalid Abu-'Ayshah group of the Martyr Wadi' Hadad forces had been fighting a battle with the enemy forces in the area east of Kafr Falus since 0930 today. The Israelis deployed a mechanized company in the battle in an attempt to encircle the PFLP's fighters. According to a preliminary statement by the PFLP, three martyrs fell in the battle which was still going until shortly after midday today.

Attack on 'Agent' Patrol; Casualties Reported

NC2707164789 *Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic* 1430 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Resistance fighters in the south detonated an explosive device under a patrol of the Agent Militia near Bayt Yahun in the occupied border strip this morning. The explosion damaged a half-track and wounded or killed its occupants.

At noon today the agents' radio reported a clash between a resistance group and a position held by the agent militia in the Kafr Falus area. The radio said that five resistance fighters were killed but it failed to report the number of casualties among the agents. Security sources, however, said that the agents suffered several casualties and a military vehicle was destroyed in the fighting.

Abu-al-Lam' Comments on U.S. Official's Remarks

NC2807152089 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1115 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] At a news conference held this afternoon, Ambassador Faruq Abu-al-Lam', Foreign Ministry secretary general, clarified some of the points contained in the testimony made by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, before the subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Ambassador Abu-al-Lam' said that the measures taken by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn regarding two illegal ports were meant to last only a few days and that Syria's blockade of the eastern ports could not have been a reaction to this. Abu-al-Lam' wondered whether it is reasonable that this blockade, if it were a reaction, should have continued for months. He added: What role are the Syrian forces playing as innocent people are being shelled night and day and deprived of water and food supplies, and as destruction is being carried out? They then say that this is a reaction. Ambassador Kelly has forgotten that in September 1983, the Lebanese foreign minister notified the Arab League secretary general in writing of a program for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Ambassador Abu-al-Lam' noted that the Christians did not request the Syrian Army to come to Lebanon in 1976. He then read a chapter of the speech delivered by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in 1976, which said: It was the Palestinian Liberation Army that entered Lebanon. Abu-al-Lam' said: Name a single area where peace has been established by the Syrian forces in the past 15 years.

Transfers in Army Command Reported

NC2807130889 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1130 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The command of al-Yarzah's military clique [Lebanese Army] has carried out a number of transfers among the commanders of some brigades and units. Brigadier General Samir Harb has been appointed Air Force commander, replacing Brigadier Fahim al-Haj. Brig Gen Harb is one of the most prominent individuals involved in the blowing up of the aircraft carrying the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami, an operation carried out in coordination with the Lebanese Forces. The changes also include the command of the 10th Airborne Brigade which is deployed on the Suq al-Gharb front. Brigadier General Makhkhul Hakimi has been appointed commander of this brigade to replace Brigadier General Fayiz Harb, who was transferred to the al-Yarzah's army general command headquarters. It should be noted that 'Awn had visited the Suq al-Gharb front following the operation carried out [against the Lebanese Army in early July] by Nidal al-Aridi and promised to take measures against those responsible. Consequently, Fayiz Harb was removed from his post.

Al-Shar' Interview on Middle East Cited
*LD2707122189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1044 GMT
27 Jul 89*

[Text] Kuwait, July 27 (KUNA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' Thursday described Syrian-Egyptian relations as "deep-rooted and historical" connecting the two countries by common aspirations and destiny.

In an interview with daily "AL-ANBA", published here today, Al-Shar' asserted the importance of both countries' ties and the need to reach a state of Arab harmony.

He pointed out that the two countries presidents, Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad, had not dealt into important strategic issues at their meeting on sidelines of the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca last May 23-26, since the meeting was short.

The Syrian foreign minister denied that the distinguished relationship between Egypt and Iraq is reason for not developing the Egyptian-Syrian ties.

He also emphatically denied existence of a military build-up on the border between his country and Iraq.

Al-Shar' renewed his country's rejection of what he termed as "free Palestinian concessions."

He believed that Israel will not give away substantial concession that would meet the minimum level of Palestinian people's rights.

"It is wrong to say that Israel wants peace", Al-Shar' said at the time it is repeating the slogan of "death to the Arabs."

Regarding the Arab League tripartite committee entrusted to bring peace to Lebanon, Al-Shar' said the committee is currently studying formation of a security committee to supervise sea ports.

He said his country's relations with Iran are based on the notion that "Iran is a friend of the Arabs," but noted such relations is neither at the expense of the Arab nation nor is it meant to anger other sides.

Cited on Egypt, Lebanon

*JN2807060289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 28 Jul 89*

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed the depth of Syrian-Egyptian relations throughout history, noting that they are not just normal relations between two sisterly countries. He announced that Egypt and Syria have always been in the same trench in defense of the Arab homeland's security and stability.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', Al-Shar' said these relations should follow—in the coming stage—a course that will restore their historical

meaning to defend Egypt's and Syria's genuine interests because this represents a defense of the Arab nation's interests, a guarantee of Egypt's and Syria's security, and, consequently, a guarantee of the Arab nation's security. The foreign minister said that this trend is embraced by the Syrian leadership and by President Hafiz al-Asad personally.

Al-Shar' added: We in Syria do not believe in axes or blocs unless this means the unity of the Arab nation to defend its decisive issues. He said: Syria exists in the heart of the Arab nation and looks positively at every step to achieve genuine unity that aims at serving the Arab issues and defending Arab interests.

Al-Shar' noted that the Baghdad rulers committed and are still committing big mistakes against the Iraqi people and the Arab nation. He said that Iraq's stand on the Lebanese war does not serve the interests of the Lebanese people or the Arab people. They have opted for standing on the side of a minority in Lebanon that deals and seeks alliance with Israel against the Christian and Muslim majority, which refuses to deal with Israel and believes in Lebanon's Arab affiliation.

Al-Shar' announced that the escalation and resumption of the civil war in Lebanon are caused by the Iraqi regime's interference and its supplying Michel 'Awn with arms and money. It seems as if this regime is always charged with assuming suspect roles in hot Arab issues.

On the Lebanese crisis, Al-Shar' said: The crisis can be resolved despite its complications and the difficulties placed by Michel 'Awn in the face of the tripartite Arab committee. He added: We believe in the need to implement the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon. We believe that it is a suitable and practical resolution to resolve the crisis.

The foreign minister said that 'Awn does not seek a political solution to the Lebanese crisis. He added that 'Awn is still maneuvering and fabricating one problem after another to evade the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolution. Al-Shar' said that the continuous talk on the flow of arms he receives from Iraq falls within the framework of military escalation, not the political solution that we all seek to the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Shar' affirmed that the price of the Iraqi regime's aid to Michel 'Awn is in fact paid by the Lebanese people in terms of innocent victims, blood, and destruction. Syria is concerned over the Iraqi interference in Lebanon because of the victims who fall as a result of the Iraqi aid. However, he added, we are not concerned about these practices because Syria is strong in its Army and pan-Arab stands. The Iraqi people will not allow any military threat against Syria, Al-Shar' said.

Government Reportedly Requests Chinese Missiles
JN2707183089 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 26 Jul 89
p 20

[Unattributed report from Geneva]

[Text] Syria has asked China to supply it with M-9 missiles which have a range of 600 km and are capable of carrying a conventional, nuclear, or chemical warhead weighing 1,000 kg.

The Soviet Union earlier refused to supply Syria with sophisticated SS-23 Spider missiles which have a range of 500 km and carry a warhead weighing 1,000 kg.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Pakistani Minister 27 Jul
JN2707135089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, minister of commerce, local government and rural development and industries in Pakistan and his delegation. The meeting was attended by [Syrian] Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi and Pakistan's ambassador in Damascus. The Pakistani minister conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto to Al-Zu'bi who asked him to return the greetings.

They explored avenues to develop Syrian-Pakistani ties and exchange expertise. Al-Zu'bi was briefed on the outcome of the Pakistani minister's talks in Damascus which led to the formation of a joint Syrian-Pakistani committee on economic, trade, scientific, technical, educational, and cultural cooperation. The prime minister underscored the importance of the measures taken to develop cooperation and conclude agreements between the two countries.

The Pakistani minister expressed his appreciation for Syria's policies and wished our country prosperity and progress under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. Other topics of mutual interest also came up during the meeting.

Protocol Signed With Pakistan

JN2807070289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The protocol of the first session of the joint Syrian-Pakistani committee for economic, trade, educational, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation was signed in Damascus this evening.

The protocol was signed for Syria by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, and for Pakistan by Commerce Minister Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat.

The protocol affirms the importance of trade exchange and developing the existing scientific and technical relations between the two countries in the interest of the two countries. The protocol includes a special agreement on industrial, agricultural, educational, and cultural cooperation.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent after signing the agreement, the Pakistani commerce minister praised the existing relations between the two countries and peoples. He affirmed that this agreement is of great importance and can be developed in the future in the interest of the two countries and peoples. He added that the two sides agreed on developing trade exchange between the two countries in light of the importance of this subject, particularly since relations between the two countries are good on various levels.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Tunisia

JN2807065689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] A protocol for economic and educational cooperation between Syria and Tunisia was signed in Damascus this evening.

The protocol was signed for Syria by Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and for Tunisia by Lahbib Lazrak, minister of mines and energy.

The protocol calls for promoting cooperation in trade and industrial exchange, energy, electricity, mineral resources, geology, and seismography and its application.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Lazrak expressed his heartfelt thanks for struggling Arab Syria, which is exerting all its efforts to embody the aspirations of the Arab nation and to reinforce Arab cooperation in general. The Tunisian official said that this agreement, which constitutes a positive cooperation in all fields between the two sisterly states, came at the instructions of the Syrian and Tunisian leaderships to implement what was agreed upon in the meetings of the higher joint committee held in Tunis recently.

Afghanistan

Wakil Wants U.S.-USSR Agreement for Peace
BK2807092089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 28 (AFP)—Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil on Friday urged the United States and the Soviet Union to work out a comprehensive plan to bring peace to Afghanistan after 11 years of war.

Cessation of military supplies to the two warring sides, the U.S.-aided mujahidin rebels and the Soviet-backed Kabul government, would alone not be enough to bring peace, he said.

"I think the United States of America and the Soviet Union should think over a comprehensive program for the resolution of the Afghan problem," Mr Wakil said. "If they do not, it is possible war will continue. Most importantly they should encourage the hostile groups to start negotiations," he added.

His comments were made at a press conference on returning from a 10-day trip to Ethiopia that coincided with the 25th assembly of the Organization of African Unity. He stopped in New Delhi for a day of talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his way home.

Mr Wakil's remarks were in response to a question about the Afghan government's expectations from Soviet-U.S. talks to be held on Afghanistan in Stockholm on Monday. Specifically he urged the United States to encourage peace talks and "approach realistically" the developments in Afghanistan following the Soviet troop withdrawal. "Our expectation is that the United States of America should stop supplying weapons to the opposition groups and take concrete steps for a political settlement," he said.

During Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States recently, both Washington and Islamabad called for a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. But Mr Wakil dismissed the call, saying: "I think they verbally speak of a political settlement but in practice they have intensified the war. But they cannot deceive world opinion by their maneuvers.

"On the one hand they say they support a political settlement and on the other the United States of America gives advanced weapons to the opposition," he added.

Mr Wakil said the Kabul government believed the United States was "getting prepared for the fighting season and an extensive offensive" in the coming months. He did not elaborate. He also predicted Washington would not succeed by using the military option because it was "facing the people of Afghanistan" following the Soviet pullout.

The mujahidin, who have been fighting to topple the Kabul government ever since the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) came to power in 1978, have refused to negotiate a settlement unless the PDPA steps aside. They have called President Najibullah a Soviet puppet and an obstacle to peace, and have rejected his policy of national reconciliation and calls to form a broad-based coalition government.

The foreign minister said it was "very clear that the role he (Mr Najibullah) is playing for peace is being considered an obstacle by the opposition.

"It is (to the credit of) the patience of the Government of Afghanistan that it is (still) spending efforts on a political settlement," he said.

On his trip to Ethiopia he said he had met several African leaders and their foreign ministers and was assured of their support for the Kabul stand in the Nonaligned Movement and the U.N. General Assembly.

Agreement on Soviet Grant in Aid Signed
LD2507105889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Agreements concerning a Soviet grant in aid to the Republic of Afghanistan for the delivery, free of charge, of goods and consumer goods for 1989 were signed this morning between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union at the Afghan Planning Ministry. The related documents were exchanged.

Under these agreements, in order to alleviate the needs of Kabul citizens and other provinces of Afghanistan, the Soviet Union will assist the Republic of Afghanistan with an amount of 35,000 tonnes of wheat flour including its air delivery costs. Also under the agreements, in order to maintain the units and companies stationed along the Kabul-Hayratan high-way through primary consumer goods, the Soviet Union will give Afghanistan in its grant in aid in 1989 4,500 tonnes of diesel, 596 tonnes of machine oils, 9,000 tonnes of wheat, 1,700 tonnes of rice, 250 tonnes of sugar, and a considerable quantity of other goods. For this purpose the Soviet Union is providing Afghanistan with a grant in aid of more than U.S. \$50 million. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Receives USSR Delegations
LD2507085989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 24, BAKHTAR: President Najibullah received here today in the Gulkhana Presidential Palace a delegation of the People's Committee of the Soviet Union headed by Pavakhanov for the release of the Soviet servicemen detained by the extremists on July 23. During the meeting, Najibullah spoke on the goals of that committee and the policy of national reconciliation pursued by the government of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] and other matters of mutual interest.

According to another report Najibullah met in the Gulkhana Palace with the delegation of the nation-wide professional unions of the Soviet Union during the day as well.

Soviet POW Release Group Continues Visit
LD2807084389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 27, BAKHTAR—The Soviet delegation for the release of prisoners of war (POW's) which had arrived here recently met on July 26 with general president of the special court for national security of the country. During the meeting, the general president talked on the political military situation in the country and replied to the questions of the Soviet delegation.

Also, the delegation called on the same day to the Puli-Charkhi prison and talked with the security [word indistinct] of the prison.

Yasir 'Arafat Sends Message to Najibullah
LD2607105189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0454 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 25, BAKHTAR—"On behalf of the Arab Palestinian people, State of Palestine and on my own, I express my gratitudes, thanks and support from the principled stand of you, your militant party, and government as well as brotherly people of Afghanistan in regard to the righteous cause of the Palestinian people", says a reply message of Yasir 'Arafat chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization "PLO" addressed to President Najibullah, received here today.

"I highly appreciate your announcement on Palestine its role and your cooperation with PLO in its peaceful efforts as well as Palestine role in the release of the American journalist Tony O'Brien", says the message.

"We once again renew our commitment to you, your people and party on our tireless efforts for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and assure you that we continue our permanent contacts with all friends and brothers for the realisation of the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan, the message stressed.

Regime Leaders Dispute, Karmal Return Rumored
PM2707140989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Jul 89 p 4

[Ahmad Zaydan report: "Afghan Sources: Babrak Karmal May Return, and Ruling Party Splits Again"]

[Excerpt] Peshawar, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Afghan sources in Peshawar confirm that the defense minister in the Kabul government, Shahnawaz Tanay, has been put under house arrest following a dispute between him and regime leader Najibullah. Na'im Majruh, director of the

Afghan information center, confirmed this to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and added that "these developments come with the framework of the old conflict between the communist party's two factions, Khalq and Parcham. The defense minister belongs to Khalq whereas Najibullah heads Parcham, which means "the banner." A dispute erupted between them following the mujahidin's successful rocket attacks on the capital. A republican guard building near the presidential palace was hit last week by rockets, and that led to 350 people being killed or wounded. They were also able to score direct hits on the Kabul radio station and a power station. And before that the Soviet Embassy in the capital, Kabul, was shelled, although there were no casualties.

Najibullah blamed the defense minister for failing to prevent such operations. Furthermore, relations between Khalq and Parcham became tense after the spread of rumors in the Afghan capital about a plan being implemented by Soviet Ambassador and Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov with a view to reinstating former Afghan President Babrak Karmal, who returned to Kabul in December 1979 with the Soviet invasion forces. He was replaced by Najibullah in May 1985 and later sent to Moscow to end the new split inside Parcham between Karmal and Najibullah supporters. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Attack Convoy; Destroy 2 Tanks
BK2707153889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly have attacked a Kabul regime military convoy at (Qandi Abresham). The convoy was proceeding toward Kabul with supplies for the besieged Kabul forces which are facing a shortage of weapons and foodstuffs. The reports say the mujahidin destroyed two tanks and armored vehicles providing security to the convoy.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul has confirmed that Afghan mujahidin have intensified attacks on Kabul. While giving information about these attacks and the casualties, the radio confirmed that serious clashes have taken place in Baghlan, Vardak, Paktia, Qandahar, and Herat provinces.

Explosives Seized Outside Kabul
LD2507105489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Organs of the Ministry of State Security have begun mopping-up operations at Khak-e Jabbar in order to prevent the launching of missiles by the murderers of our people against residential areas in Kabul city. BAKHTAR's military section reports that, as a result of this operation, two Sakar-30 missile warheads, 66 mortars, two anti-vehicle mines, and thousands of rounds of assorted ammunition, which had been placed in parts of

Khak-e Jabbar in order to be launched against residential areas of Kabul city to create fear among the people, were uncovered by our peace-loving people and seized.

BAKHTAR Reports on Recent Clashes
LD2507102489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0527 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 24, BAKHTAR: The armed opposition extremists supported by Pakistan and the Saudi Arabian Wahhabis fired yesterday heavy missiles from the remotest areas on the security posts and residential areas at the outskirts of Jalalabad city killing two personnel of the Armed Forces and wounding six others, reports our military correspondent from Jalalabad city.

The Armed Forces based in Nangarhar Province resorted to retaliatory actions as a result of which forty six persons attached to the enemy were killed and seventy others got injuries. Two ring leaders known as Qari Abdul Qader, and Malem Hazrat Mohammad and a number of the Pakistani militarists and Wahhabis were among those killed and wounded.

According to another report a large amount of arms and ammunitions were seized by the Armed Forces in that province as well. On the basis of another report two women were wounded as a result of the extremists' rockets fired on the residential areas on Khowsht grand district yesterday. Likewise, 25 extremists were crushed and 42 others injured during the counter attacks of the Armed Forces launched there [words indistinct] and weapons of the enemy were also demolished during the said operation.

The extremists who are in opposition to the pious people of Afghanistan also launched yesterday heavy weapons on the related areas of Paktia and Qandahar Provinces causing no casualty. Thus the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar resorted yesterday to counter attacks killing seven enemies and destroying some of their mortars and machine guns.

According to another report one personnel of the Armed Forces was killed yesterday as a result of the firing of rockets against Herat city. Six persons attached to the enemy were killed and thirteen others got injury during the counter attacks of the Armed Forces carried out in Herat yesterday.

Monthly Casualty Figures for Kabul Reported
LD2507094189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 24, BAKHTAR—Ninety civilians were killed and around 500 others injured as a result of 393 ground to ground rockets fired by Pakistani backed extremists on residential and metropolitan areas, bus stations and kindergartens in the Afghan capital during the last four weeks. From among those injured, 37 who sustained severe wounds died in the hospitals.

Three mosques, 4 private houses, tens of shops and apartments demolished and 99 vehicles destroyed by the attacks as well. Properties damage reach to millions of Afghanis.

On the order of the Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis the extremists resort to anti-Islamic crimes. For instance, these sold-out elements planted a pen-bomb in children's playing field in the Kheyr Khaneh area. As a result one child lost two arms and seven others injured.

It must be said that during the said period 14 people were killed and 519 others wounded by the extremists' rockets fired on Kabul.

Security Forces Capture Kabul 'Saboteur' Group
LD2407093689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0503 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 23, BAKHTAR—With the close cooperation of the Kabul military garrison, the Kabul security forces toppled a terroristic and saboteur group which wanted to launch terroristic acts and disturb the peaceful life of Kabul inhabitants, were hidden in their hideouts in the Asiab Bini area of Kabul.

Three extremists were captured alive and a large amount of assorted weapons as well as a corpse of an extremist fell at the hands of security forces. According to another report the security forces foiled a treacherous design of the criminal extremists in the Khake-e Jabbar district, Kabul Province today.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that the security forces unearthed and confiscated 2 Socker-30 rockets, 30 mortar shells and several light and heavy armaments in the area. The rockets were mounted in the area for attacks on Kabul city.

Rabbani Cited on Rocket Attack Incident
PM2407081089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 20 Jul 89 p 5

[Ahmad Zaydan and Jamal Khashuqji report: "Rabbani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Will Resolve Incident out of Concern for Jihad and Mujahidin"]

[Excerpts] Peshawar, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Professor Burhannudin Rabbani, reconstruction minister in the Afghan mujahidin government and leader of the Islamic Society, has emphasized that his party will work to resolve the incident which led to the killing of a number of the society's mujahidin in an ambush by Islamic Party mujahidin. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that although the incident is a great shock to the jihad and the mujahidin, "the interests of Islam and the jihad are more precious than anything else, and we will do our best to avoid any complex problems and resolve the crisis so that we do not stray from our main objectives."

In his statement Rabbani stressed the need for the culprits to be brought to justice. He said: "We will refer the matter to the mujahidin government and demand that the guilty parties be tried by a religious court so as to prevent any repetition of this in Afghanistan, which we want to be a state of Islam and justice. [passage omitted]

Rabbani also said that the meeting attended by the victims was held to coordinate the jihad in the North and to prepare for an offensive on Bedekhsan Province. He added that five mujahidin were killed after [Islamic] party members attacked them with rockets last Tuesday. On the following day another group surrendered while crossing the valley, but its members were executed a few hours later. [passage omitted]

Pakistani 'Spy' Addresses News Conference
LD2507084689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 24, BAKHTAR: I was assigned to destroy and explode the friendship bridge of Hayratan by clock bomb and plant mines, there and to study the depth and width of Oxus River, to discover some small isles and also how to destroy the railway inside the territory of the Soviet Union and the Soviet ships in Oxus River.

Said a spy of Pakistan's intelligence agency, named Mukhtar Gul, in a press conference held here today in the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan. [sentence as received] He confirmed the direct and gross interference of the Government of Pakistan against the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] and the expansion of such interference to the borders of the Soviet Union and against the Soviet Union. The conference was attended by the domestic and foreign journalists, some cultural attaches of the embassies in Kabul.

He said that he was captured by the Afghan security organ: before putting into practice the above plans.

Replying to a question, the Pakistani spy said that he is a Pakistani citizen, residing in Charsada of Peshawar and is a member of CID [Criminal Investigation Department] of Pakistan. He was admitted by that organisation in 1985. He later was taught by an American adviser how to deploy the explosive materials and how to use the special tools under the water.

After receiving military education, he penetrated into Logar Province in cooperation with some Pakistani citizens and a group of persons attached to Golbuddin band. After a short stay in Logar Province he entered Konduz province in company with a group belonging to Golbuddin band for putting into practice the plan.

In conclusion of the press conference, an announcement of the BAKHTAR Information Agency (BIA) was read by vice-president of that agency. The announcement stressed that the government of Pakistan wants to convert the events in our country to a regional dispute.

'Defeat' of Opposition Government Seen
LD2407082389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0517 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 23, BAKHTAR—The extremist opposition leaders published a statement in Peshawar yesterday in which they complained that their Iranian and Pakistani supporters not only do not want to continue their sympathy with the extremist groups but also widely interfere in their internal affairs.

According to international news agencies recently Pakistani and Iranian authorities following their meetings, have put pressures on extremist groups in the seven alliance to allow the participation of the eight alliance concentrated in Iran in the so-called interim government of opposition.

Political observers stated that the so-called interim government of extremists which was formed under the pressures of Pakistani military spying network (ISI) [Inter-Services Intelligence], and by bribing [words indistinct] Saudi Wahhabis in Rawalpindi has faced with a complete defeat and even their staunch supporters such as U.S.A. and Pakistan ignore recognizing it.

So far the recent attempts of the Iranian and Pakistani authorities for sharing power between the above mentioned two alliances in the so-called Rawalpindi Government arouses severe differences among extremist groups.

Rebel 'President' Mojaddedi on War, Outlook
PM2607135189 Jeddah 'UKAZ' in Arabic
19 Jul 89 p 5

[Interview with Shaykh Sebgatullah Mojaddedi, "president of Muslim Afghanistan," by Muhammad Mahjub; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mahjub] May we have a brief idea about the current military situation on the battlefield?

[Mojaddedi] Since the withdrawal of the majority of the Russian forces from Afghanistan we have been trying to achieve more victories. And, praise God, no defeats have been inflicted on us, though we have not captured any cities on our way to the other cities. I believe by its concentration on the Jalalabad battles the international press—probably under Russian tactics—has caused some people to ask why Jalalabad has still not fallen to the mujahidin. In fact the distance between the Pakistani border and Jalalabad is about 85 km, and we have been able to capture nearly all of that road. Only 7-10 km remain. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] From what source does the the Kabul regime receive aid? And how is it sent?

[Mojaddedi] The aid comes from the Soviet Union by land and air, and via Khowst, which is bigger than Jalalabad in terms of its military fortifications. It also has more military forces. Praise be to God, the mujahidin have reached that city and captured most of the military positions there. Two days ago the mujahidin engaged in a major battle in Khowst, and that was crowned with victory. And, God willing, that city will fall before Jalalabad is captured.

[Mahjub] Are you thinking of acquiring military aircraft?

[Mojaddedi] There are some problems which prevent us from achieving that objective: First, apart from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and some Arab and Islamic states, many states have still not recognized our government. Second, we must have airfields and associated installations, and conditions are not suitable now for doing that. A few days two pilots of a Sukhoy aircraft fled and surrendered to our forces. And before that two Danshil-914 [as transliterated] helicopters also surrendered. So at this stage we just launch military attacks on the cities throughout Afghanistan. We besiege them to force them to surrender. Regrettably, the international press focused on the Russians' withdrawal from Afghanistan merely to say that the regime was strong without the Russians. But the truth is that their withdrawal was partial, since there are still thousands of them, including pilots and experts. There are 44 Russian experts operating the Scud missiles, which have a 600 km range. And their airlift continues to deliver ammunition, arms, and food to the capital, Kabul. But despite all this, the mujahidin's morale is high, praise God. We are continuing the jihad determinedly. We have received no ammunition for 5 months, and we do not know the reason. The same thing had happened in the past, but this problem no longer exists, especially since the United States decided recently to continue its military aid to us. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Now that the guerrilla warfare has ended, can we say that the Afghan mujahidin have a regular army confronting the Kabul regime?

[Mojaddedi] The guerrilla warfare has not ended; it is still continuing. We sometimes engage in that kind of warfare, and we sometimes face some problems. We can say that we have no army in the known sense, but we have mujahidin, exactly like an army, well trained in military tactics and operations and the use of arms. We are trying to unite the mujahidin under one command and have actually formed a ministry for defense. And there is an assistant to the defense minister who is specialized in military training. More than 3,000 officers from the Afghan Army have joined the mujahidin and are now working at the defense ministry in Peshawar. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Some people believe that the main reason for the Afghan mujahidin's failure to capture Jalalabad is their severe disputes and inability to unite under one banner.

[Mojaddedi] There are some minor disputes among the Afghan mujahidin. But after the formation of one government these disputes have begun to disappear gradually, especially as there are five organizations cooperating together. Generally, it can be said that there is major cooperation among the mujahidin. Most operations inside Afghanistan are carried out within a framework of cooperation and consultation among the Afghans.

[Mahjub] Do you not believe that these minor disputes could hamper the capture of Jalalabad?

[Mojaddedi] We can capture Jalalabad now. There are more than 10,000 mujahidin besieging the city. But if we rush our entry, that could result in major losses because of the mines planted around the city and the presence of the artillery, missiles, and heavy and light weapons. We hope to force the besieged cities—like Jalalabad and others—to surrender. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Have you submitted a request for admission to the United Nations?

[Mojaddedi] No, not yet. When the Islamic states, God willing, recognize our government, that will help us to secure a UN seat for Afghanistan. The United States has sent special envoy "Peter Tomsen" to work in Afghanistan, and he contacts us daily—a positive step toward recognizing our government in the future.

[Mahjub] How would you assess your relations with Pakistan at present?

[Mojaddedi] After we contacted Benazir Bhutto's government, she sent us major aid and stressed her government's backing for and recognition of us. There are no differences between us and Pakistan, since it supports us fully. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] When do you expect Kabul to be captured?

[Mojaddedi] God Almighty knows. But we hope it will fall soon, once we acquire the arms and ammunitions agreed with the United States.

[Mahjub] Do the USSR and the U.S. governments have any intention of bringing Zahir Shah to assume power in Afghanistan?

[Mojaddedi] If Zahir Shah had come in the past, some brothers would have agreed to his return. But the formation of the mujahidin government by the Afghan people has ended that subject. Thousands of letters and cables have been received from mujahidin emigres in Europe,

the United States, and elsewhere, supporting this government. So it can be said that the overwhelming majority of the Afghan people are happy with this government and leadership. Thus there can be no other alternative to this government. I do not believe that the Afghan people will accept a new ruler's coming without our government's and their approval. So it is difficult for Russia and the United States to impose a ruler—whether Zahir Shah or anyone else—on our country.

[Mahjub] Have you drawn up a constitution for the country?

[Mojaddedi] We have drawn up a temporary constitution for our government, and a permanent one must be drawn up by the shura and agreed by everyone. It is an Islamic constitution, since we rule according to the Islamic shari'a. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] It has been reported that Hekmatyar's tour and meetings with a number of heads of state did not secure those states' recognition of the interim mujahidin government—which is why he was forced to cut his tour short.

[Mojaddedi] Shaykh Hekmatyar made one mistake which has harmed the cause. He thought that there was a decision by the mujahidin leaders that the interim government would continue for a 6 month-period and then would be dissolved. But that was a big mistake, since the 6 months elapsed without achieving anything and the government remained. For that reason, some states rejected the principle of recognition. I have spoken to Hekmatyar about that several times. I disagreed with his making any tour at that time.

[Mahjub] But why did the states which Shaykh Hekmatyar visited not recognize the Afghan Government?

[Mojaddedi] I do not know what the reason is. With the exception of Malaysia, they refused to recognize us. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Does the interim mujahidin government intend to issue Afghan passports?

[Mojaddedi] We have decided to issue special passports for Afghans traveling to the states which have recognized us. But there is a problem regarding the way the Pakistani Government will grant a visa on those passports. The matter is still under discussion, and, God willing, in the near future we will appoint ambassadors for us to the states which have recognized us, like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Sudan, and Malaysia.

[Mahjub] When do you believe the interim government passport will be issued?

[Mojaddedi] Within 2 months from now, God willing. [passage omitted]

VOA Interviews Extremist 'Ringleaders'
LD2407100589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 23, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Haq, a ringleader attached to Khalis group said in an interview last night with a correspondent Pashto service of radio Voice of America (VOA) that the rockets which are put at their disposal by Pakistan and the United States are not very modern therefore they cannot hit strictly targets, as a result of which civilians including children, women and old people are being killed.

Confessing to this anti-humanistic crime he says further that they do not have other way except doing so.

Gaylani another ringleader of the said group, in his interview with Western mass media, said two days ago that everybody suffers as a result of the firing of the rockets on cities by the extremists. Instead of condemning such anti-Islamic acts of the extremists he called launching rockets on the cities "a part of the struggle of the so-called mujahidin".

Shahrokh Geran, one of the ring leaders of Mahaz confessed today in his interview with VOA that the aim of firing the rockets against civilians targets by the extremists is to put pressures on the state through military means.

The fact is that contrary to the calculations of the extremists, firing of the blind rockets on cities have caused the anger and indignation of our people against the enemy launching of the rockets on cities from the long distances shows their weakness and testifies to the fact that they are not able to cope directly with Armed Forces of the country. Thus for taking revenge, the extremists resort to the killing of innocent people including terror of innocent children and women.

Keshtmand Visits Damaged Kamal-Bagram Highway
LD2707100989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 26, BAKHTAR—Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers visited today the damaged parts of the new Kamal-Bagram highway and its' construction process. The highway is damaged by recent rainfall.

During his visit, Keshtmand exchanged views with the workers, engineers and responsables and listened to their proposals as well.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers also assigned special duties to the minister of construction and Kabul mayor on speedy repair of the road. Later on Keshtmand participated in a

session of the personnel of work and construction headquarters and necessary measures for acceleration of the work process of the highway were adopted to be discussed in the general session of the Council of Ministers.

Likewise Keshtmand visited the construction process of Brick Production Factory in Deh Sabz District, Kabul Province. The construction work of the factory which began in 1984 with the economic and technical assistance of the People's Republic of Bulgaria will be finished in the [word indistinct] quarter of the current Afghan year (started March 21, 1989). Seven hundred million Afghanis are paid from the developmental state budget and 50 million dollars from the technical assistance of Bulgaria for the construction of the factory.

The annual production capacity of the said factory is 50 million bricks which will meet the requirements of the constructional institutions of the country as well as the citizens of Kabul City in the field.

During the visit necessary instructions on the acceleration of the montage process of the machinery and completion of construction work of the factory were given.

Council of Ministers Meets on Plan, Budget
LD2707202489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers Administrative Office reported to BAKHTAR that the Council of Ministers Executive Committee held a session this afternoon at the Council of Ministers Headquarters under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee and with the participation of the deputy prime ministers, ministers, and departments heads of the Republic of Afghanistan.

At this Council of Ministers session, the circumstances regarding the implementation of the socioeconomic plan and the government budget in the first quarter of 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] were broadly discussed. At this session, it was pointed out that the circumstances regarding the implementation of the plan and the government budget during the first quarter of the current year are being assessed at a time when the country is in a special condition from the viewpoint of its political and military situation, seeing that the imposed war against the people of Afghanistan has been intensified. Immense losses stemming from war have been imposed on the national economy. This damages and has a serious effect on the country's economy. Despite this, effective steps have been taken for improving the country's socioeconomic situation and serious measures have been taken in this respect. Some ministries and departments have taken specific measures for the fulfillment of the plan and the government budget. Some of the fundamental indices of the plan and budget have been

fulfilled and over fulfilled. However, in various fields, a number of these indices have not been implemented in accordance with the envisaged duties.

The value of industrial products of factories in the government, mixed, and private sectors reached 30,738,000 afghanis in the first quarter of the year. The plan for the production of bread and bakery products has been over-implemented at the rate of 8.3 percent. The generation of electric power from hydroelectric and diesel resources has been over fulfilled.

From the start of spring sowing to the end of the first quarter of the current year 2.9 million hectares land were planted with various crops. During the first quarter of the year, the amount of 26,500 tonnes of various agricultural fertilizers, 4,190 tonnes of cotton seeds, and 4.13 tonnes of sugarbeet seeds were distributed to the country's peasants for the purpose of increasing agricultural production. During this period, insecticides and pesticides with a value of 45 million afghanis were distributed to the peasants and cattlebreeders of the country.

At this session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, reference was made to shortcomings and defects in the work of ministries, departments, enterprises, and institutions in the implementation of the duties envisaged in the government plan and budget. It was pointed out that nonfulfillment of some plan indices stems primarily from the low level of plan discipline as well as from organizational weaknesses and weak control over the circumstances regarding the implementation of the government plan and budget in the capital and the provinces.

Specific duties were given to all ministries and departments in a resolution of the Council of Ministers for the complete fulfillment of the planned objectives for the year.

In light of the great importance of transportation at the present time, the circumstances regarding the fulfillment of plan indices in the area of transportation over the first quarter of the year were considered separately. It was pointed out at the session that transportation plays a major and valuable role in the expansion and progress of economic foundations. Under the country's current conditions, the transportation of commodities, as the primary economic issue in supplying citydwellers with basic goods, is at the top of the nation's and government's priorities.

Despite enormous difficulties stemming from partial closure of the highway and the loss of more than 300 transportation vehicles, under the plan, 985,200 tonnes of goods were transported to the markets and economic projects in the first quarter of the current year by the government and private sector.

It was pointed out that the Council of Ministers adopted specific measures in the first quarter of the year to insure normal transportation activities, particularly along the Kabul-Hayratan highway, and fulfill the basic needs of the inhabitants and of government institutions. However, despite the adopted measures, the activities of the government and mixed transportation enterprises are not satisfactory with regard to transportation in comparison to the plan and objective needs.

The Council of Ministers resolution in this respect gives specific duties to the Ministries of Transportation, Commerce, Planning, Finance, Mines, Industries, and other relevant ministries for the complete implementation of the plan duties for this year.

At this general session of the Council of Ministers, work progress on the new Kabul-Bagram road also was considered in light of the visit by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Executive Committee. It was pointed out that specific tasks have been accomplished for the construction of this road by the relevant organs, and intensive work is underway in some areas of this project.

At this session, the tasks set for the relevant organs by the Council of Ministers for the timely completion of work on this road were considered. The session also issued specific instructions for the removal of defects and shortcomings, and a contingency plan for further intensifying work on the Kabul-Bagram road was approved.

The Council of Ministers discussed the reconstruction of Nangarhar Province, based on a report by the joint Presidential and Council of Ministers' delegation. It was stressed that despite the pursuance of a peace-seeking policy and the realistic stand of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan for the restoration of peace in the country and the removal of all reasons and causes of war, Nangarhar Province was fiercely attacked by the terrorists and criminal warmongers, with direct assistance of the United States and the Pakistani militarists, and with collaboration of the Saudi Wahhabis. As a result of their barbarous attacks, a large number of the patriots—including women, children, and the elderly—were martyred. Public property was also plundered. The property of the people was plundered and immense material losses were sustained.

However, our heroic Armed Forces, enjoying high combat and patriotic spirit, together with the noble people of Nangarhar, and particularly those of Jalalabad, defended their homeland and inflicted deadly blows on the aggressors and plunderers. It was said that the present situation in Nangarhar demands that ministries and departments should work with greater readiness to meet the needs. They should accomplish their specific duties by utilizing all available possibilities and reserves. A contingency plan for the reconstruction of Nangarhar was approved at this

session. Some 13 legislative documents also were considered and the necessary decisions were made on them. A number of ministers and department heads spoke about the issues raised.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, assessed the work of the session relating to the circumstances regarding the fulfillment of the socioeconomic development plan and the government budget in the first quarter of the current year, as well as other issues on the agenda. He spelled out the duties of the ministries, departments, and enterprises for complete fulfillment of the duties assigned to them.

Keshtmand Interviewed on Economy

LD2707093589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Interview granted by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, to an unidentified NEWS OF THE WEEK correspondent; date and place not specified—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: Eleven years have passed since the April revolution in Afghanistan. The economic path of the revolution, in particular in the course of the first [word indistinct] has been of what manner? In your opinion what work has been carried out for maintaining economic changes and what mistakes have been made?

Answer: The socioeconomic backwardness of Afghanistan is a legacy of the past. The multistructural economy of the present is also a legacy from the past before the April revolution. However, in recent years new bases have been built alongside the state and private sector of the economy. Mixed and cooperative sectors of the economy have also been relatively developed. [passage omitted]

Question: Mr Keshtmand, you were prime minister for many years. In 1367 (1988-89) your cabinet was replaced by a coalition cabinet headed by esteemed Dr Hasan Sharq, and subsequently, after the declaration of the state of emergency, you resumed your work as the head of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, exactly at a time when, as it has been said, the administration was stagnated and in crisis. What was the economic situation in 1367 (1988-89) and what was the cause of the crisis?

Answer: Ethically and principally, no criticism is directed against the government of esteemed Dr Mohammad Hasan Sharq, but as a viewpoint, the objective situation of the country's economy should be described. In 1988-89, under changed political-military conditions, as a result of lack of attention to the rules and logic of a war economy, [word indistinct] was quickened, and by adopting the old methods of state administration under the new conditions, the newly structured face of the

country's economy was crumbling. The domestic economy and production was facing serious stagnation and the level of state revenue speedily dropped. Shortcomings and the shortage of primary goods, particularly the shortage of foodstuffs in the cities appeared, and prices jumped several fold. This situation as a whole depended on the objective intensified condition of war in the country.

Question: What steps have been taken during the recent months, after the declaration of the state of emergency, toward improving the economic condition and the alleviation of the problems of the people?

Answer: Immediately after the declaration of the state of emergency, the Council of Ministers, in order to prevent undesirable events and phenomenon and to improve the socioeconomic situation in the country, undertook an extensive plan of measures in which specific tasks were entrusted to all the ministries and departments to speed up and coordinate their efforts toward the revival and improvement of the work of the apparatus of the state administration, the elimination of economic stagnation, and the reconstruction of the nonfunctioning establishments and part of the areas of production—as a whole, the economy and culture of society. The socioeconomic development plan of the country for 1989-90 for the realization of these aims was drafted and approved. [passage omitted]

Question: What role can be played by the private sector in the country's economy in solving the problems facing the people?

Answer: The private sector has a special position in the multisector and multistructural economic system of the country. Although the share of private sector in gross national income is 80 percent, its share in government budgets income is less than 8 percent. This demonstrates that the economic policy of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is aimed at the development and encouragement of capital and investments in the private sector. It also gives opportunity of free action to foreign investment to the extent of its feasibility. [passage omitted]

Question: Esteemed chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, are there problems of maintaining supplies to the people during the coming winter?

Answer: Necessary measures are being taken to supply people in the coming winter with food and fuel. The Supreme Council of Defense of the country and the Council of Ministers have taken into consideration the question of the creation of stable government reserves for the winter, and specific decisions have been made and practical action has already been started.

Question: How is the financial situation of the country? The afghani falls against the dollar. What measures will be taken in this respect?

Answer: [Passage omitted] Despite the fact that the government of the Republic of Afghanistan has taken due measures to prevent the increasing rise in the price of foreign currency, the impact of the government can be felt only to a certain extent because a great section of the country's business and currency dealings are in the hands of the private sector.

Question: The opponents of the government try to continue the economic blockade of the cities. What practical hopes for the betterment of the economic situation of the country are viable?

Answer: While a campaign to abort the callous efforts of armed opponent groups to blockade the cities is mounted, there are great hopes for the betterment of the economic situation of the country under the condition of peace. This is why the necessity for a political solution of the Afghanistan problem and the struggle for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, the cessation of war, and the restoration of peace in the country are clearly perceived. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan and its Executive Committee understand their responsibilities in connection with the socioeconomic progress of the country, the solution of economic problems, the supply of necessary goods—primarily staple food and fuel—and the possible control of prices. However, the understanding and cooperation of the people, especially under the present difficult conditions caused by war, which continues as a result of the warmongering extremist forces and their foreign supporters, is necessary and inevitable. The need of our people for international aid in conditions of restoring peace and security in our country for its reconstruction and of rehabilitation and resettlement of the returnees and displaced people of our country, continues to exist. We must work harder under the conditions of the continuation of war by the armed opposition, our resolute defense of the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country, and the political solution of Afghanistan's and problems in healing the people's wounds.

India

Spokesman Confirms High-Level Talks With Sri Lanka
BK2707125089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 27 (AFP)—India confirmed Thursday that it was conducting high level talks with the Sri Lankan Government over Colombo's insistence that 45,000 Indian troops leave the country by Saturday.

Foreign affairs spokesman Aftab Seth however declined to comment on Sri Lanka's reported demands that Indian troops stop fighting Tamil rebels and that New Delhi recognize Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa as commander of the troops.

"I can confirm that (the high level) contacts are on," Mr Seth said.

Mr Seth said the high commissioner in Colombo, Lakhan Lal Mehotra, was negotiating for the Indian side.

Mr Seth did not say whether Mr Mehotra was negotiating directly with the Sri Lankan president or with Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne.

Mr Wijeratne said in Colombo Thursday his government realized the Indian troops, stationed in Sri Lanka since 1987 under a bilateral accord designed to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, "Can't be moved in one or two days."

He laid down two conditions to end the impasse between the two countries—that Mr Premadasa be recognized as commander of the troops and that the Indian soldiers cease their fight against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Indian side had come "half way" in the current negotiations, he said.

Mr Seth declined to comment on whether the differences between the two sides had been narrowed or not.

India has rejected the July 29 deadline, saying that any withdrawal of its forces must be negotiated by the two sides, and that the security of Tamils in Sri Lanka's northeast is at stake.

Mr Seth also confirmed that in the wake of Wednesday's bombings of Indian businesses in Colombo, attributed to Sinhalese militants violently opposed to the Indian troop presence, the Indian Government was unhappy with security arrangements for its nationals and diplomats.

"Clearly it's not good enough, since these attacks took place," he said, and added that he had heard but was unable to confirm reports that the Indian high commission had asked for additional security.

He also confirmed that the Indian aircraft carrier Virat was in the waters off Colombo, adding that its presence "is not surprising" in view of the situation.

News reports here said the Virat and an Indian troop landing ship were standing by with a contingent of commandos ready to evacuate Indian high commission staff should the situation warrant.

No Troops To Land in Colombo

BK2707162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Consultations are going on between India and Sri Lanka to sort out pending issues. The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr L.L. Mehrotra, is having discussions with the Sri Lankan Government over the last 2 days. A spokesman of the High Commission said in Colombo Mr Mehrotra has been in touch with the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, over all the issues, including those related to the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal. Mr Mehrotra has also been in touch with the Sri Lankan president. Mr Mehrotra, in a meeting with the Sri Lankan foreign minister, expressed concern over the bomb explosion in the Indian bank and the burning of an Indian firm which is an Indo-Sri Lankan joint venture. Regretting over the incident, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne said that extra security is being provided with immediate effect.

[Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English at 1600 GMT on 27 July carries an almost verbatim repeat of the above item, adding that "In reply to a question, the spokesman of the high commission confirmed that some additional security personnel have been provided for the high commission to meet its internal security. The spokesman however said that there is no question of IPKF being landed in Colombo."]

Editorial on Government 'Petulance'

BK2407114889 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
17 Jul 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Bungling and Worse"]

[Text] New Delhi has made a hash of the issue of the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka. The fact that on June 1 President Premadasa peremptorily demanded the withdrawal by July 29 cannot justify the truculence that has marked Indian responses to the various developments since then. The latest instance of this attitude is the threat held out by the External Affairs Ministry spokesman that India might break off all discussions unless Colombo officially denied the statement attributed to Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. The latter was reported to have said that the IPKF might be evicted if it does not pull out by July 29. Assume for a moment that Mr Wijeratne had spoken out of turn. Will reacting petulantly to that help solve the problem? Is the problem to teach Mr Wijeratne manners or to find a way of extricating ourselves, as much as Sri Lanka, out of quicksand?

Such thoughtless needling is of a piece with the ill-advised warning given, not by any junior official lacking in diplomatic skill, but by the Prime Minister himself in his letter of July 11 to the Sri Lankan President. After making out a persuasive case for joint consultations to resolve the withdrawal issue, Mr Gandhi spoilt much of its intended effect by saying that if discussions were not

acceptable to the other side, India would take a "unilateral" decision "consistent with its responsibilities". A similar inconsistency, fatal to the very idea of a negotiated settlement of the complex issue, was evident when the Indian official media made so much of the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Front] leader, Mr Padmanabha's threat to revive the agitation for an independent Eelam. This was his way of protesting against the Sri Lankan Government's parleys with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. But by appearing to endorse his posture, New Delhi made nonsense of its own claim to have strengthened the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka by deploying the IPKF.

The drift towards a show-down is tragic all the more because there is no basic conflict of interests between India and Sri Lanka. The question of the future safety and security of Sri Lankan Tamils about which India is naturally concerned is, of course, difficult. But this can and must be solved through patient negotiations. By breaking the LTTE's military backbone the IPKF in fact has prepared the ground for this. We should build on that record, rather than try to score debating points. And even South Block [External Affairs Ministry] cannot pretend that it is being successful even in scoring debating points. The four premises which Mr Premadasa listed, for instance, are unassailable. And should the adolescent petulance of our government cause Sri Lanka to take the issue to, say, the Security Council, there would be few takers for our assertions.

Commentary on Government Position

BK2507120589 Delhi General Overseas Service in
English 1010 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Sheikh Manzoor Ahmed commentary]

[Text] New Delhi feels that mutual consultation is the only way to end controversy over the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] from Sri Lanka. It feels that the discord on the withdrawal should not be developed into a messy dispute or even confrontation which is not to the advantage of either country. The bilateral agreement signed on July 29, 1987 between the two countries—which has a standing in international law—is [word indistinct] securing peace, justice, and ethnic harmony in the face of chauvinism and a militarized ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

The present controversy was created by Sri Lankan President Premadasa's statement that IPKF should withdraw by July 29th, which marks the 2d anniversary of the India-Sri Lanka accord. India reacted by saying that Sri Lanka was moving in a dangerous direction by not fulfilling its contractual obligations under the accord. Mr Gandhi, while remarking on Premadasa's statement, said IPKF had gone to Sri Lanka as guarantors of

agreement and helped peaceful political process. Parliament, and provincial councils polls to presidency, Parliament and order thereafter, too. Sri Lanka in maintenance of disintegrated long ago if the IPKF Sri Lanka would have there, he further stated. If would have not gone

Within 10 days of signing of the agreement between President Premadasa and the militant LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] on cessation of hostilities, LTTE was allegedly involved in killing of Tamil United Liberation Front leaders Amirthalingam and Yogeswaran, followed by assassination of the Tamil and United Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam chief People's Liberation killings have come as a deadly couplet Maheshwaran. The and propaganda that rapprochement under to presumptions Lankan Government and the LTTE effected between Sri of peace in the island, especially TE presage restoration areas. In Sri Lanka, many politically in Tamil-dominated textile and rural development minister, S. Thondaman, supported non-confrontationist policy toward IPKF withdrawal and have been emphasizing the need to ensure that overall framework of the agreement as and safeguarding the tively and flexibly to tap the opportunities created by IPKF guaranteeing peace in the island.

This is a practical and political reality accepted by even senior advisers of Premadasa, seniority accepted by even former president Jayewardene de the president. Even Lankan accord and said, "It has defended the India-Sri area." In India, on the other hand, ushered in peace in the academicians, career diplomats, a group of prominent suggested Premadasa turn away from and intellectuals have restore dialogue of harmony in resom confrontation and kan issue. Any departure from a resolving India-Sri Lantrust and cooperation cannot be infatuation of mutual party or further the goal of regional the interest of either stability, they said. These views wal peace, security, and L.P. Singh, former governor; Mr were presented by Dr former diplomat; Mr Nikhil Chak Badruddin Taiyabji, umnist; and Mr Gurbachan Singh, kroberty, a noted col-sador to Sri Lanka. former Indian ambas-

Mr Rajiv Gandhi has assured President Premadasa in a letter dated June 20th that India is committed to preserving the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka under the agreement. It was as a result of this commitment under the agreement. bility as guarantors for the implementation and our responsibility that we responded to the request of the accord Sri Lanka to send IPKF, he said. of the Government of the situation seemed headed in This was a time when breakup of Sri Lanka, he added. exorably toward the IPKF has striven with considerable During its presence, cost to itself, to prevent such an oue success, but at heavy of the island and to safeguard the outcome of breaking up that country, he explained. India unity and integrity of IPKF even before Premadasa restarted withdrawal of timeframe for the IPKF withdrawal requested it. A broad our initiative, Mr Gandhi announced was also discussed at ed. He reiterated that

the IPKF will not stay in Sri Lanka a day longer than necessary. We believe that in the spirit of traditional friendship between our two countries, we must jointly draw up mutually agreed schedule for the implementation of the agreement and the complete withdrawal of IPKF, the prime minister wrote to Premadasa.

Spokesman: Prabhakaran's Death Not Confirmed
BK2707145889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government has got no confirmation of reports emanating from Sri Lanka about the death of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader, Mr Prabhakaran. Speaking to newsmen, he said we have reason to believe that stories about the so-called death of Mr Prabhakaran have emanated from the LTTE itself and the motivation behind this is an attempt on their part to divert the people's attention from the killing of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders, Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran. He said these killings have hurt the image of the LTTE considerably.

The spokesman also said that the manner in which these rumors have emanated is in keeping with the pattern of disinformation which the LTTE has hitherto followed.

Minister Criticizes Opposition Contact With U.S.
BK2507161789 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] In a statement issued in New Delhi, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr K.K. Tiwari, alleged that [opposition Bhartiya Janata Party leader] Mr Ram Jethmalani, who had been in America for a couple of weeks to promote Mr V.P. Singh as the future prime minister had done strenuous lobbying with the congressmen, media, and other agencies to achieve his objectives. He said it is to be remembered that these congressmen had recently tabled a motion in the American Congress proposing an end to all American development aid, technology transfer and cooperation in scientific fields to India unless the Indian authorities stopped their so-called oppression in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Tiwari said Mr V.P. Singh and the opposition should explain whether their decision to resign from the Parliament and to force an immediate election has been done as a consequence of assurances of support and guidance from their foreign mentors.

Commentary on Nepal's 'China Card,' Security
BK2607115489 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1010 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Commentary by S.K. Nair]

[Text] In order to cover its failure on economic front, the Government of Nepal had been trying to play a China card against India, endangering Indian security, which

have been of peripheral interest to India. The Government of Nepal felt that their own panchayati [parliament] system is in the greatest scrutiny and demand for more democratic and multiparty liberties is on the increase, because of the democratic institutions in India. To stop the impact of Indian democracy on the Nepalese one-party system, the Government of Nepal has of late started equating national integrity with anti-India tirade.

An in-depth study of Asian and European continents shows that in Europe there have been trends for greater integration and interdependence; whereas in Asia, particularly in South Asia, the movement has been in the opposite direction. The Anglo-American lobby has been trying to see that the idea of special relationship between nations in Asia, especially in South Asia, should weaken away.

There has been a traditional special relationship between India and Nepal, identifying through treaty of peace and friendship signed in July 1950 between the two countries. The terms of the treaty were distinctly favorable to Nepal. This can be better understood if study of treaties among the European Economic Community, between the U.S.A. and Canada, ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] etcetera is done along with the 1950 treaty. In all these, sovereignty has been circumscribed in the interest of economic integration. National sovereignty is, in fact, on the way out elsewhere, but it is still an obsession in South Asia.

The links between Nepal and India have been unbelievably close. For Nepal to seek equidistance from both India and China and to try to play India against China or India against Pakistan would, thus, be fruitless. India has no imperialistic traditions; it has never tried to conquer either Nepal or Tibet, Pakistan or Bangladesh, or any other country in the region. So, to talk of Indian hegemony and India as a minor superpower or regional superpower is the language of those who do not want India to emerge as another power center. India's becoming one could disturb the balance as the Western powers see it, so they try to [create] dissension between the center of South Asia, India, and the periphery.

The U.S.A., on one hand, has worked hard to bring European countries together. For South Asia, its tactics have been to frighten the smaller South Asian countries by talking of India's so-called hegemonistic intentions. Nepal has been tempted by dreams of becoming the new Switzerland, which can never happen, as the real Switzerland would have competition. Even Pakistan has miserably failed in its efforts to seek parity with India, in spite of all American aid.

For India, its vital interest is that the periphery should not threaten security of India. The violation by Nepal of Indo-Nepal treaty of 1950 has been with a view to threaten Indian security. The ill-treatment of Indian teachers, discrimination against Indian goods, work permits, land ownership, or of other issues did not disturb

India as much as the question of India's security. It is not clear how Nepal's vital interests are served by an economic cold war with India. In fact, Nepal's social system and the panchayat system might be in danger. But Indian influence in Nepal has been an element of stability.

India has sided more or less with the Nepalese elite. In India, both the society and the state sought friendship with Nepal, but not at the cost of India's security. India's vital interest is that no peripheral country should draw a foreign power into the subcontinent that could threaten India. It is this alone that is at the root of the problems with the U.S. and Pakistan. India can tolerate every breach of the 1950 treaty by Nepal, so long as it does not concern India's vital security interest.

Nepal should not delude itself that if a new government comes to power in New Delhi in the forthcoming elections, there would be any change in India's policies toward Nepal, for the strategic interests of India would remain the same.

Afghanistan's 'Abdul Wakil Meets With Gandhi
LD2707191489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with his excellency, Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India. During the meeting, the minister of foreign affairs informed His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi about the recent political and military developments in the country and pointed out the intensified repeated aggression of Pakistan which has endangered peace and security in Afghanistan and the region. Also Abdul Wakil shed light on the results of the visit by a delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan to Ethiopia and its talks with the heads of delegations of member countries of the OAU in the 25th session of that organization, and about their support for the peaceful initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan toward the maintenance of peace and the cessation of war and aggression in Afghanistan and affirmation of the necessity of complete observation of the Geneva accords by the parties concerned, and the cessation of interference and aggression in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Rajiv Gandhi once again renewed the consistent support by India concerning the solution of the situation in Afghanistan and stated his support for the complete observation of the Geneva accords by the parties concerned toward political solution in Afghanistan and emphasized the necessity of peace and stability in the region. He promised every sort of cooperation towards the maintenance of lasting peace.

Both sides also exchanged views on topics of mutual interest and topics relating to the region and the world. The meeting was held in a friendly and sincere atmosphere.

Abdul Wakil, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan also met with His Excellency Narasimharao, the Indian minister of external affairs, and talked about topics of mutual interest to both countries and the situation in the region. His Excellency Natwar Singh, the Indian minister of state for external affairs, S.K. (Singerhar), secretary in the Indian External Affairs Ministry, and 'Abdul Samad Azhar, ambassador and representative- extraordinary of the Republic of Afghanistan in India, were present.

According to another report, Abdul Wakil and his entourage today took part in a luncheon given in their honor by His Excellency Natwar Singh.

4 Killed, 12 Injured in Tripura Police Shooting
BK2807090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] At least 4 people, including a woman, were killed and 12 injured when police opened fire on a group of agitators at Dhemchara in north Tripura last evening. The injured included seven policemen. The police opened fire when the agitators, demanding free rations, turned violent and tried to loot a food godown. The state government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the firing.

V.P. Singh Rejects Charges Over Bofors Deal
BK2807091289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Janata Dal leader, Mr V.P. Singh, [former finance minister in Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinet] has said in a statement in New Delhi that the Defense Ministry had recommended the Bofors gun for the security system of the country. In this situation, the responsibility of the finance minister was to arrange for the finances for purchase of Bofors gun. Mr Singh was contradicting the charges made by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, in Parliament.

Pant Criticizes Opposition Stance
BK2707160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has asserted that Parliament must firmly reject every single criticism leveled by audit which is contrary to the findings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] on the Bofors gun deal. He pointed out that Parliament had already accepted the JPC report. The minister was replying to a short duration discussion on paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General [CAG] on the 155-mm howitzer gun deal in the Rajya Sabha today.

Referring to the charges that the CAG report is indicative of corruption, he said there is no suggestion, far less evidence, of corruption in that report. The defense minister asked: Where is that portion in the CAG report

which casts any reflection whatsoever upon the prime minister? He said the government categorically refutes any suggestion that there were deficiencies in the technical selection of the weapon system. On the contrary, this exercise has been completely undertaken in the best interest of the nation.

Mr Pant said the prime minister gave his approval after thorough examination at the official level by all concerned agencies. It is amazing how any reasonable person can find anything in the CAG [report] which can be construed even remotely critical of any action taken at the prime minister's level. It is this very absurdity of the allegations, not backed by even a shred of evidence, which exposes the hollowness of the stance adopted by the opposition parties. It is evident that the opposition knew that this fact would come out in a discussion of the report. They did their best to scuttle the debate and took refuge in flight, Mr Pant said.

Earlier, when the deputy chairman, Dr Najma Heptulla, called for resumption of the debate, the opposition leader, Mr Gurupadaswamy, got up and said that the opposition is not a party to the deal and the alleged attack on the CAG for its report. He said the debate is unnecessary. Demanding the resignation of the government, almost the entire opposition staged a walkout.

Describing the walkout as sad, Mr Pant said the sole purpose of the opposition is to see that facts do not come to light. When the issue is being debated all over the country in various forums, what is it that prevents the opposition from debating it in Parliament, Mr Pant asked. It amounts to denigrating the Parliament. Mr Pant asked the opposition to ponder over the consequences of politicizing pillars of democracy like the CAG.

Pant Says Agni Development 'Indigenous'
BK2407102089 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has asserted that the development of intermediate-range ballistic missile, Agni, is totally an indigenous effort and no assistance was sought for this from any country. Replying to questions in the Lok Sabha today, he said that the report in the section of press in India and abroad about the assistance provided by West Germany and U.S.A. are absolutely wrong.

Answering the main question, Mr Pant said the Agni launch achieved all the objectives set for it. The minister said the Agni launch has afforded the country with the option to deliver conventional warheads with high precision at long ranges.

Replying to a question, Mr Pant said the Defense Ministry wanted to conduct this technological demonstration from the national test range at Baliapal, but due to agitation generated by misinformation, this flight had to

be shifted to Chandipur on sea. He said government sanctioned over 60 lakh rupees by way of compensation to the people displaced as a result of Agni launch.

Iran

Reportage on Presidential Election, Referendum

Larijani Assesses Elections

LD2707165289 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Friday's presidential election is important because the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, is not among the Iranian nation, a former deputy foreign minister writes.

Mohammad Javad Larijani noted that Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's selection as the new leader and the presidential election would prove foreign powers wrong and show that the Islamic Republic is a stabilized regime. In an article in the daily ETTELA'AT Thursday he said the constitutional changes would transform the Presidency, increasing his span of power and the way of conducting executive affairs.

Election Arrangements Detailed

LD2707153989 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Millions of Iranians would go to the polls throughout the country to elect the fourth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Friday [28 July]. More than 85 individuals registered as candidates for the election but two had their credentials approved: Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majlis Deputy Dr 'Abbas Sheybani.

The Council of Guardians according to the Article 99 of the constitution will supervise the election.

The first presidential election was held on January 25, 1980, in which 14,146,622 voted, and 10,750,185 votes went to Abolhassan Bani-Sadr. After 17 months Bani-Sadr was dismissed by the Majlis whose members found him politically incompetent. He later fled to Paris.

On July 24, 1981 Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, who served as premier under Bani-Sadr was elected president with 13,001,761 out of the 14,763,363 votes. Raja'i and his prime minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Javad Bahonar were martyred in a bomb explosion at the Prime Ministry on August 30, 1981.

On October 2, 1981 Tehran's Friday prayers leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i was sworn in as the third president. He swept 16,008,579 votes out of 16,847,717 in the election. He was re-elected in 1985 when he gained 12,203,820 votes out of a total of 16,246,530.

For Friday's presidential election and referendum on constitutional amendments, more than 25,000 polling booths will be open throughout the country for 10 hours. Iranians abroad can also vote at 62 missions around the world.

The Interior Ministry has distributed 70 million ballots—half for the election and the other half for the referendum. Those 16 years of age and older can vote.

Election, Referendum Under Way
NC280705 1989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The fifth presidential elections and the referendum on the amendment of the constitution got under way at 0700 this morning in 26,000 polling stations in Iran and 70 representations of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad. The elections will continue for 10 hours until 1700.

The elections staff has announced that all compatriots born on 6 Mordad 1353 [28 June 1973] and before and who can legally vote can go to one of the polling stations anywhere in the country. Upon presenting their identity card, they will receive two voting ballots, one for the presidential elections and the other for the amendment of the constitution. Votes for president should be placed in a special box. As for voting in the referendum on the amendment of the constitution, since the ticket for a yes vote is green and the one for a no vote is red, one of these two should be chosen and cast in the box for the referendum. Furthermore, for the first time since the outset of the imposed war, nearly 100 polling stations have been set up in Khorramshahr and Abadan.

The elections staff has also announced that in the fifth presidential elections and in the referendum of the reappraisal of the constitution, there are no limitations as far as casting the vote in one's area of residence or place of birth. Thus, any person who meets the legal conditions can go to one of the polling stations anywhere in the country to cast his vote. The elections staff of the Interior Ministry has also pointed out that it is necessary to have an identity card and present it at the polling station, thus notifying all compatriots who intend to travel that they should have their identity cards with them wherever they go.

IRNA Notes Start of Voting
LD2807055 1989 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Iranians began voting Friday [28 Jan, July 28, IRNA—Iranians began voting try to elect thly] at polling stations throughout the country's fourth president since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Leader and President Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i cast his vote near his headquarters in central Tehran soon after 26,000 polling stations opened throughout the nation at 7 am (03:30 gmt).

The elections will determine whether Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani or Majlis Deputy 'Abbas Sheybani will replace the two-term president.

The new president will enter office with considerably greater powers than his predecessor if people vote 'yes' to constitutional amendments in the referendum being held simultaneously.

The powerful presidency will give the new administration a freer hand to effectively tackle the issues which is not political instability of the early years of the revolution or the war but the poor state of the economy.

It is the first time elections are taking place since Imam Khomeini died on June 3 and great emphasis has been put by officials and the media that massive participation will show that the Islamic republic he founded remains popular.

The highest turnout was in the 1981 election when 16.8 million votes were cast and all but 800,000 went to Ayatollah Khamene'i. Those 16 and above can vote.

Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Voter Turnout
NC2807063489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0455 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Statement by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni in Tehran—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I thank you and the rest of our friends at the radio who are working for the full participation of the people in the elections. Today is an extremely important day for me and for the rest of our friends, for the imam's household and for the imam's secretariat, for two [as heard] reasons. One is that we are all here while our imam is not. Our dear imam has joined God. This was a heavy loss for us. We ask God that He unite us with the imam on resurrection day and that all hezbollahis throughout the world be placed next to him. The referendum on the constitution and the elections are among our very important issues from various aspects. One is that the world has turned its eyes to us to see what we want to do, what our dear people want to do, whether they show by a heavy presence at the polls that they want to continue the dear path of the imam or whether they will gladden the hearts of the enemies of the system and of the revolution by failing to turn out in large numbers. But we know what our people, who are the children of our dear imam, who grew up with the imam, who breathed with the imam, and who resisted together with the imam in all

confrontations with foreign and domestic counterrevolution and arrogance, will do. This resistance itself is one of the most outstanding characteristics of our dear people.

The dear people should to the polls in great numbers and with great zeal and cast their vote for either of the two presidential candidates. They should vote for the amendment of our constitution because their vote will mean support for Islam, the system, and our dear officials.

Today the imam is not among us, and your officials have greater need of your support. If our officials do not have your support, they may, god forbid, become discouraged in the not very distant future. They can work only next to their people because our independence and our non-alignment means we are not dependent on any power or superpower. Therefore our dependence is on you, the people. The system depends on the people. You, the people, are the backbone of this system. You should do your best. As the child of your imam, I ask everyone of you, sincerely and like a brother, to know wherever you are that voting is more important than anything else you are doing. If, God forbid, you are facing a problem, you should continue to think about voting. God willing, God will support you. All our hopes are attached to you. May God safeguard each one of you. May God's blessings and benedictions be upon you.

Ahmad Khomeyni Comments After Voting
NC2807071189 Tehran Television Service in Persian
0645 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Statement by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni after casting his vote in Tehran on 28 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I had thought of bringing the identity card of his eminence the imam, so that he too could vote here as he did every year. His love for Islam and the system was such that we are sure that his great soul is watching over these elections and over the decisions of our dear people. I call on all the noble Iranian people to turn out in large numbers for the presidential elections and the referendum on the constitution and, by casting their votes, inflict a heavy blow on the slanderers and enemies of Islam, our system, and our Islamic homeland. God willing, our people, with their political and intellectual maturity, will never abandon the officials of our system. In the future, God willing, with the election of a president this country will be able, by leaving the war behind, to start its reconstruction. I thank all you brothers who have come here. May God bless all of you.

Khamene'i Casts Vote
LD2807061689 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Leader and President 'Ali Khamene'i voted in the presidential election and constitutional amendments at polling station number

1980 in Tehran Friday [28 July] morning. Iranian television showed him walking with an aide from his headquarters to the station set up exclusively for officials, administrators and guards serving the leadership.

He wrote his choice for president and marked the appropriate box on the constitutional referendum slip and inserted them in separate boxes. As he dropped his vote the dozen or so people around him shouted a prayer in praise of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) and his household.

An IRNA correspondent said a group of domestic and foreign journalists, photographers and television reporters witnessed the voting.

Nationwide voting began at 7 AM (03:30 GMT) and will go on for ten hours.

Candidates Cast Votes
LD2807094389 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—The two candidates in Iran's fifth presidential election since 1980 cast their votes Friday [28 July] morning.

Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the favorite, voted at the Jamaran Mosque, next to the home of the late Imam Khomeyni in north Tehran at 10 am.

An hour and a half earlier his rival Majlis Deputy Dr 'Abbas Sheybani voted at a polling station at Fakhraabad Mosque in Central Tehran.

The winner will become Iran's fourth president, replacing Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i who was selected the leader of the Islamic Republic on June 4.

Meanwhile the election headquarters at the Interior Ministry has received calls from many polling stations which have run out of ballots.

Governor General offices are required to supply ballots as soon as they receive reports of shortages.

More than 16 million voted in the last presidential election in 1985.

Officials Cast Votes, Comment
LD2807114589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Summary] "Today, Islamic Iran once again was the embodiment of love, self-sacrifice, unity, and sincerity. Millions of Iranians who are faithful to the Islamic revolution, from the early hours of this morning, in the first test after the demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, with their extensive presence at the polling stations to vote on a referendum on constitutional amendments and in the presidential elections,

revealed their firm resolve in safeguarding the gains of the revolution and continuing the path and the aspirations of his holiness, Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise. They will leave today behind with pride and glory, and will once again give rise to the amazement and praise of friends and enemies."

Reports from all parts of the country indicate the extensive presence of the people in the elections. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, went to the polling station at 0810 today and chose his candidate for presidency and voted on the amendments on the constitution. According to the report, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i wrote his vote which he placed in ballot box number 1980.

Jamaran had a unique atmosphere today. The members of the noble family of the holiness the imam, including Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the illustrious son of his holiness the imam—may he be admitted to God's paradise—cast his vote in ballot box number 110, which was always blessed with His Holiness Imam Khomeyni's voice in the past. The path between the room where his holiness the imam lived and the courtyard in the house where ballot box 110 was taken in the past was covered with flowers, and the ballot box itself was surrounded with a wreath.

According to a Central News Unit report from Qom, His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Golpaygani cast his vote at 0730. While voting, he said: "I beseech God Almighty to enable the future president to give priority to the complete implementation of divine laws, the realization of well-being, comfort, security, and the improvement of the economic situation, especially paying attention to the condition of the deprived and oppressed classes."

Grand Ayatollah Araki cast his vote at 1030. While stressing that participation in this vital issue is a religious duty, he emphasized the need for the special attention of the future president to be deprived and oppressed, and said: "We hope that the future president can do his utmost to pay attention to the deprived and weak in society." He added: "This Islamic Republic, which is a legacy of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—sanctified by his noble soul—should be administered in the best possible form by the powerful hands of the leader, the president and the Muslim people, because this will ensure our well-being, both in this world and in the next."

Grand Ayatollah Mar'ashi-Najafi cast his vote at 0900. In a short speech he said: "I regard it my religious duty to take part in these elections; this is the religious duty of all Iranian people. I hope that the future president of the country will be successful in solving the problems of the country."

Ayatollah Meshkini, chairman of the Assembly of Experts, also cast his vote this morning. In some remarks, Ayatollah Meshkini described acting on the

divine, political will and testament of Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—as the most important duty of the future president. Remarking on the extensive presence of the Muslim ummah in various stages of the Islamic revolution, he said: "The presence of the people upon the stage will guarantee the future of the Islamic order, and will prepare the way for the advancement and development of the country."

Musavi Interviewed on Polling

*LD2807122189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Jul 89*

[Text] Prime Minister Musavi, after inspecting several polling stations today, attended one of them and cast his votes in ballot box number 929. Our correspondent has conducted a brief interview with Mr Musavi, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Today you inspected some polling stations, then you cast your vote in ballot box 929. Please state what you thought of the people's participation as well as the organizational aspects of the polling stations.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At the polling stations I visited, the participation has been extraordinary with people showing a fine response, as expected from such a dear, aware, and revolutionary nation. [words indistinct] I saw some of the selfless devoted brothers here. I thank all of them. At those stations that I have visited the people's response has been extraordinary.

[Correspondent] What about the organization?

[Musavi] The organization is good, that is, everything is in order. I believe that due to the size of the crowds there may occur some shortage of ballot papers, but I am sure that the Interior Ministry is fully aware of that and has made the necessary projections in that connection. [end recording]

Interior Minister Interviewed

*NC2807082889 Tehran Television Service in Persian
0530 GMT 28 Jul 89*

[Interview with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi by correspondent Agamiri at the Interior Ministry in Tehran—live]

[Text] [Agamiri] Mr Mohtashami, the fifth presidential elections and the referendum on the Constitution got under way simultaneously throughout the country today. What news do you have for the people about this and what do you have to tell them about the elections in your capacity as interior minister and head of the elections staff?

[Mohtashami] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I want to thank all the dear people who helped in the preparations for the elections which are an extensive Islamic and national movement. The Voice and Vision of Iran has played a very effective and active role, as did the government organs and the honorable Council of Guardians, which are helping in this. I should say that the greatest role in the elections is played by the people. It is they who cast their votes and who undertake the main burden of the elections. We have between 250,000 to 300,000 people throughout the country who are working in the 26,000 polling stations. There are at least 10 people at each polling station, half of whom are from among the people while the other half are supervisors and members of the security forces. There are also supervisory committees and other [word indistinct] committees and we have 30 local [word indistinct] from among the people at each polling station. Naturally, the elections are being carried out by the people themselves, and the Interior Ministry and the government only support the people and prepare for the elections. This is a source of pride for us and I think that there is no other country in the world today where the people themselves run the elections. Every country that calls itself a democracy and has either a republican or parliamentary system assigns the supervision of elections to the government without the people having any part in it. But in Iran the supervision on the elections is the responsibility of the people; that is, the Council of Guardians chooses supervisors from among the people. We have chosen pious and revolutionary hezbollahis to supervise the elections. Therefore, this is a special characteristic of our elections.

At this point, I want to note that we have added to the number of our polling stations abroad. We had formerly announced that voting could be carried out in 62 foreign countries. However, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 11 [as heard] more countries were added. Now we have more than 70 countries abroad where polling stations have been set up and where executive committees have been formed, and our compatriots abroad can cast their votes.

Another thing that I should add is that public polling centers for all Muslims of the [word indistinct] have been set up near the pure tomb of the Imam. We have set up four polling places, both stationary and mobile, for Behesht-e Zahra and the imam's tomb, and all those coming from the provinces to pay tribute to the imam, who number in the thousands, can go to these stationary and mobile polling places and cast their votes.

One problem that has been pointed out in various statements is that of conscripts, that is, those born between 1338-1345 [1959-1966], whose identity cards were sent to the vital statistics department for renewal. They are constantly in contact with the elections staff asking what they should do. We have made arrangements with the vital statistics department, and all identity cards that have been renewed are ready to be delivered. Those people whose identity cards have not

yet been renewed can take their old identity cards. Today throughout the country, all vital statistics offices are open and will continue to work until the end of the elections. If we see a need to extend the elections, the vital statistics department too will extend its hours. All those dear ones whose identity cards are at this department can apply to the office where they handed them in and either get their new identity card or take back their old identity card by handing in the receipt that was given to them.

[Agamiri] Thank you Mr Mohtashami for having giving all this information to our compatriots. I want to reemphasize to our compatriots that all those whose identity cards are at the vital statistics department and offices for renewal can go to these offices in Tehran and in the towns in order to cast their votes. Their old identity cards can be used for voting. I thank you, Your Excellency

Mohtashemi on Situation at Polls

LD2807130589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Thousands of pilgrims to the shrine of his eminence the imam—may he be accepted into God's paradise—as well as different strata of the people today cast their votes in boxes at polling stations set up on the site of the imam's tomb.

Our correspondent reports on the vast presence of the people at that site as well as the visit paid by Interior Minister Mohtashemi to the polling stations:

Since the early hours of the morning today, as people have heard that several mobile and fixed polling stations have been set up on the site of the imam's shrine and at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, they swarmed toward the site. [passage omitted]

The polling stations around the tomb of his eminence the imam, now at noon, are full of voters. Interior Minister Mohtashemi, following his inspection of several polling stations in Tehran, arrived a few minutes ago at the polling stations near the imam's tomb. He closely inspected the polling and the activities of officials.

The interior minister speaking on problems at the polling stations and the presence of the people, said:

[Begin recording] [Mohtashemi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am glad that I participated in the voting close to the shrine of his eminence the imam on this fateful day. I inspected many polling stations today. The excitement of people was at a high pitch. [passage omitted] The main demand of the officials was that they are experiencing shortages of manpower. The volume of work is very high. Therefore, they need more secretaries. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It is now almost noon and you are receiving a succession of reports from all over the country on the situation at the polling stations. Is it possible to extend the time of voting?

[Mohtashemi] So far the people have overwhelmingly welcomed the elections. We have received many reports from all over the country, such as Khorasan, Khuzestan, Esfahan, Kordestan, and West Azarbayjan. The people's turnout is very high. Various strata in West Azarbayjan and Kordestan have participated, showing very high degree of enthusiasm. In Esfahan, from the early hours of voting, we saw a massive swarm into the stations, especially in the rural areas. There are many reasons for such a turnout. Most certainly, because of such a turnout I fully believe that we will need to extend the time of voting. As a rule, at 1630 it will be clear what the position will be at the polling stations. I foresee that the time must be extended by several hours. [end recording]

Voting Extended 2 Hours

LD2807125889 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Voting in Iran's fifth presidential election and the referendum on constitutional amendments has been extended because of massive participation.

"In view of the way the dear compatriots have welcomed the election and the referendum, voting will be extended by two hours," Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi announced in a statement. People can now vote until 7 pm (15:30 GMT) instead of 5 pm. voting started at 7 am.

Ballot counting will start immediately after voting ends and officials expect results from most provinces to arrive at the election headquarters at the Interior Ministry by noon Saturday. [29 July]

Musavi-Ardabili Gives Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2807115289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Simultaneous with the fifth presidential election and the referendum for amending the Constitution, the political and religious Friday prayers were held all over the country with various strata of the people in attendance.

The people of Tehran, meanwhile, arrived at the Tehran University and the adjacent streets to carry out the Mohammadan rites under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili.

Referring in the prayer sermons to the vast participation of the people in today's elections, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili discussed the role of elections and referenda in Islam as well as the duties of the people with regard to them. He said: In addition to social benefits and positive social effects, the act of going to polling stations and

casting the ballot is both the discharge of one's duty and an Islamic endeavor. Nonparticipation in elections is tantamount to failure to discharge one's duty—it means turning away from and stabbing at the regime.

Referring to the fact that today, 54 days have passed since the agonizing death of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, the president of the Supreme Court said: The imam has not died; the imam's messages, guidance, and immortal thoughts will always be alive in the hearts and spirit of the people.

Stressing the fact that the imam awakened the Muslims of the world and that he once again vested greatness in Islam and the Koran, bringing them onto the scene as an impregnable element, he said that the imam proved that religion was not separate from politics and as such it had a mission and a message. He then said: The people bade farewell to their imam in such a great and glorious manner that they astounded the world. And then, by electing His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i as the leader of the Islamic revolution, the experts disheartened a world which was waiting with covetous intentions. He added: The Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution, set up on instructions from the imam, successfully concluded its assignment. Today is the day when the people go to the ballot box in great numbers to determine the president and to reply to the referendum with an affirmative vote.

Concluding his sermons Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili referred to the final demand of the imam and said: Islam must be translated into action and people must conform to the Koran. The hands of foreigners and aliens must be cut off from the Islamic countries and the fate of Muslims. The Muslims must live freely and independently. All the active and progressive forces must be employed at the service of the meek and the deprived. He said: On this sacred day we pledge our bond to God, the prophet of the God and the spirit of God [reference to Khomeyni whose first name "Ruhollah" means the spirit of God] as well as the dear people and declare that we shall not retire until we translate Islam into action. We pledge our word to track down economic, cultural, and ideological colonialism—which we have already driven out of the frontiers of Islam—in an effort to permanently obstruct their return. We pledge our word to employ all our forces and resources to protect the meek and the deprived and never to abandon our objective until the imam's wishes and demands are met.

Attempt To Obtain Egyptian POW's Release Ends

LD2707132889 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Athens, July 27, IRNA—All Arab and European mediation efforts aimed at releasing Egyptian mercenaries taken captive by Iran in the Iraqi war has stopped, an Egyptian daily reported Wednesday [26 July].

AL-WAFD in a front page report said Tehran wanted direct talks with Cairo and linked the release of the Egyptian prisoners with normalization of Tehran-Cairo ties.

The Egyptian Government puts the number of prisoners being held in Iran at 146 only, while the paper claimed there were 13,000 Egyptian POWs in Iran.

Oman recently tried to mediate between Tehran and Cairo in connection with the Egyptian POWs, AL-WAFD said.

Further on Visit of Pakistani Defense Official

Agreement on Defense Ties

LD2707172189 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan have agreed for wide cooperation in defense following a high-level visit by a defense official from Islamabad.

"The agreement inked between the two countries during the visit has vast dimensions, and helps stabilize peace in the region in the light of the two countries' interest," said Islamic Revolution's Guards Minister 'Ali Shamkhani.

Iran and Pakistan have also agreed to exchange logistical services. The agreement comes at the end of a six-day visit by Pakistan's Minister of State for Defence Ghulam Sarwar Cheema. He left Tehran for Islamabad Thursday.

Cheema discussed matter of mutual interest with several ranking Iranian officials including Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC] 'Ali Shamkhani.

During his stay Cheema also inspected IRGC industrial and defense centers and talked with commanders of the IRGC ground, air and naval forces.

Joint Military Commission Formed

LD2807102689 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT
28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have set up a joint commission at ministerial level for cooperation in military training and defense industries.

According to a joint statement released after the week-long visit of Pakistan's Minister of State for Defense Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, the commission met in Tehran and discussed specific proposals.

These relate to training requirements of the armed forces and launching of joint ventures for the defence industries.

"This is a significant step by the governments of Pakistan and Iran to strengthen bilateral cooperation in military training and defense industry between the neighboring Muslim countries," the statement said.

Cheema, at the head of a high-powered delegation, left Tehran Thursday. He had arrived on July 19 and held talks with senior Iranian officials, including acting Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Islamic Revolution's Guard Minister 'Ali Shamkhani and Defence Minister Gen Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali.

Further on Shi'ite Leaders' Visit to Tehran

LD2407095789 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT
24 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Leading Muslim Lebanese personalities left Tehran Sunday night at the end of a visit to discuss the crisis in Lebanon. During their stay they also attended a ceremony marking the end of 40 days of national mourning for the demise of the Islamic Republic's founder, Imam Khomeyni.

The Lebanese, including a number of Muslim militia leaders, signed a communique here on maintaining unity and joint struggle against Zionist and imperialist agents in Lebanon.

Before departure Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah praised leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's efforts for bringing about the agreement which he described as "highly valuable."

"The agreement will resolutely end to positive results if all the concerned combatant groups respect its principles," he told IRNA.

Vice speaker of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly of Lebanon Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din also said the agreement closed the ranks of combatant forces in their confrontation against the common ploy of the Zionist and Maronites for disintegration of Lebanon. "We will stand against disintegration of Lebanon and will win with God willing," Shams al-Din said.

On Iraqi interference in Lebanese affairs, he said it doubled the sufferings of the people but stressed that Baghdad's support for the Maronite Christian forces would expedite their defeat.

Maldives

President Interviewed on 1988 Coup Attempt

PM2707084989 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
20 Jul 89 p 5

[Interview with President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom by Muhammad Mahjub in Mecca; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Mahjub] What was the objective of the three aborted coup attempts in Maldives and how can such attempts be prevented?

[Gayoom] The press and international news agencies were mistaken when they said three attempts took place in Maldives. There was only one attempt which occurred last November. There was a conspiracy before that, but it did not reach the stage of implementation. We cannot say it was an attempt, but rather a group of people hatching a plot. We identified and placed them under arrest for investigation. They had been planning since 1983 to interfere in the elections. As for the recent attempt, terrorists came to Maldives and attacked us with weapons in order to subjugate the country; destroy Maldivian independence, sovereignty, and freedom; and undermine the Maldivian people's freedom.

[Mahjub] What stage is the investigation of those terrorists in?

[Gayoom] The case is still being investigated. The Maldivian Supreme Court is continuing its investigations in this regard, but has not yet issued its verdicts which will be decided according to Islamic law.

[Mahjub] Have Maldivian relations with Sri Lanka been affected as a result of the aborted coup attempt?

[Gayoom] Despite the fact that those who attempted the coup are from Sri Lanka, our relations are cordial. The Sri Lankan Government also has to deal with terrorists. Therefore, no tension has occurred in relations between Maldives and Sri Lanka. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Your excellency, how do you view the tragic situation in Lebanon and how would you assess the endeavors of the tripartite committee formed by the recent summit to solve the Lebanese problem?

[Gayoom] The tripartite committee is undertaking an important task and, as an Islamic state, Maldives wishes it success in its mission to solve the Lebanese problem, which pains us very much. We hope the Lebanese themselves will be able to arrive at a political formula acceptable to all the parties, so that they will agree to find a curative solution. Lebanon is of a special status in the homeland—a status which should prompt the Lebanese to actually participate in solving their own problem by themselves to arrive at a solution acceptable to all the parties. We hope that the tripartite committee will be useful and successful in that regard. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] In light of the recent coup attempt, how did you manage to achieve stability in regard to security in your country?

[Gayoom] Stability in any country emanates from within the country itself. As long as there are no sectarian, party, or political disputes among the Maldivian people, it can be said that we live under great security and considerable stability. There are no reasons for division among the Maldivian people who are coherent and committed to one religion, one culture, and one common history.

Thus, our conditions are stable. The best proof of this is the fact that the recent attempt came from outside, not from within at all. [passage omitted]

Iranian Foreign Deputy Minister Visits

*LD2707192289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 27 Jul 89*

[Text] The deputy foreign minister in charge of Asia and Oceania held talks with the president of the Maldives. In the meeting, the president of the Maldives, while expressing deep sorrow on the occasion of the agonizing demise of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, remarked on the trend of the peace talks between Iran and Iraq and said: We want Resolution 598 to be fully implemented; we will do whatever may be in our power toward that end.

Referring to the expansion of relations between the two countries, he called for the expansion and deepening of these ties. He expressed the hope of visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran at an opportune time.

Another report by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY says that our country's deputy minister of foreign affairs yesterday, in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, met the deputy foreign minister of that country; they exchanged views on issues of interest to the two countries.

Nepal

Economic Cooperation Talks With Pakistan Scheduled

*BK2007114689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT
20 Jul 89*

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 20 (AFP)—High-level delegations from Pakistan and Nepal will begin a four-day meeting here Tuesday [25 July] to discuss stepping up trade links between the two countries, officials said Thursday.

The bilateral group, known as the Joint Economic Commission, will meet in the shadow of strained relations between Nepal and India after trade and transit treaties between New Delhi and Kathmandu expired in March.

Since then, India has enforced a virtual trade embargo against Nepal, closing all but two of its border crossings resulting in crucial fuel and commodity shortages in the Himalayan kingdom.

In a June visit to Kathmandu, Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan assured Nepal of Islamabad's cooperation including the granting of commodity loans to offset losses suffered by the Indian embargo.

About 70 percent of Nepal's raw-materials-based industries have been forced to close down in Nepal since the trade and transit treaties expired March 23, sources in the business community said.

Although Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has not made any official statement on the current dispute between Kathmandu and New Delhi, the Pakistani media has strongly criticised India, describing its attitude as hegemonic and bullying.

During his last meeting with Nepalese Foreign Minister Ismail K. Upadhyaya, Mr Yaqub Khan said Kathmandu had Islamabad's full sympathy and support during the current embargo.

A high level economic delegation led by Mr Ehsanul Haq Piracha, the Pakistan minister of state for finance, is arriving here Tuesday to participate in the Joint Economic Commission talks. The Nepalese delegation will be led by Finance Minister B. B. Pradhan, official sources said.

The group, set up during the rule of Pakistan's late president Ziaul Haq, is a high-powered body aimed at promoting economic cooperation between the two countries. The joint economic commission is expected to review the present state of cooperation between the two countries and ascertain new areas of cooperation.

Nepal's revised trade policy, in effect since the Indian trade embargo, calls for expanding its trade contacts with other nations and not remaining dependent on one country for raw materials.

Pakistan supplies textiles and textiles goods to Nepal for its garment industries which it exports as "ready-to-wear" clothes to the United States, Canada, West Germany and other EEC markets, officials said. The clothing exports are a good source of foreign exchange earnings, they added.

Nonetheless, because of the thousands of kilometers separating Nepal and Pakistan, trade between the two countries is negligible.

During the forthcoming meeting, Nepal and Pakistani officials may enter into long term agreements to set-up import substitute industries in Nepal.

"Although Pakistan could not be a substitute to India in the supply of raw materials, she could help Nepal to a great extent at this critical hour," said one trade analyst.

Importation of Some Indian Publications Banned
BK2207151689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Kathmandu, July 22 (AFP)—Nepal has banned the importation of some Indian publications because of a shortage of Indian currency in the country and Indian

restrictions on Nepalese publications, an official said Saturday [22 July]. He said that over 3,000 Indian publications on various subjects including cinema, science fiction, and daily newspapers worth 90 million rupees (3.27 million U.S. dollars) were imported into Nepal annually without any restrictions.

Restrictions would not be imposed on "standard newspapers and journals in Hindi and English, but we are restricting the imports of sub-standard tabloids or journals dealing on sex and other dirty politics, fictitious comics, (which may) affect the fertile brains of the younger generation," he said.

Since the expiry of trade and transit treaties with India on March 23, which have become the centre of a dispute between two countries, New Delhi has unilaterally imposed a virtual blockade on the border with Nepal, the official said. A ban on Nepalese publications in India came into force before the treaties expired, he added.

Arrest of 2 Nepali Congress Leaders Reported
BK2207034489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Two leaders of the Nepali Congress were arrested yesterday near Kathmandu while planting saplings. According to the party sources, Mr Ganesh Man Singh and Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai were arrested along with 300 party workers. The tree plantation campaign is part of the weeklong program to mark the seventh death anniversary of the former prime minister, Mr B.P. Koirala.

Pakistan

Judge Dismisses Fazle Haq's Petition on Remand
BK2807044289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Additional Sessions judge of Peshawar yesterday dismissed the petition on remand of retired Lieutenant General Fazle Haq. The defense lawyers said the entire action was illegal, as the court session began prior to the scheduled time of 0730 [0230 GMT]. The prosecution lawyers refuted this allegation saying that the petition on remand was submitted to the First Class Magistrate at 0730 and hence the action of the court and the order were legal.

Minister Tells Senate About Defense Production
BK2007014889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] The Senate, which resumed its session this evening after an 8 day recess, was informed that the defense production division is actively engaged in expanding the existing defense-oriented industries to meet the requirements of the country. The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Dr Sher Afghan, told the House that organizations, like heavy [word indistinct]

factories and Pakistan ordnance factories at Wah, Pakistan aeronautical complex at Kamra, the Institute of Optronics and (Margala) electronics, have been entrusted with production of armored vehicles, weapons, ammunition, light machine devices, communication equipment, radar sets and engines for F-16 aircraft. He said whenever possible, efforts are made to obtain production technology along with procurement of equipment.

Dr Sher Afghan has also informed the House that PIA [Pakistan International Airways] plans to start services to some new domestic stations, like Dalbandin, Parachinar, Rahimyar Khan, Mirpur, and Ormara.

The House has now adjourned to meet again tomorrow morning.

Bhutto Speaks on PLO, Nuclear, Afghan Issues
BK2007031289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that the struggle of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories has brightened up a new path of struggle to the freedom-loving people of the world. In an interview to the Kuwaiti daily, AL-WATAN, she said Pakistan considers the ideals of the Palestinians as the ideals of the world Muslims.

Referring to the recent visit of the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to Pakistan, the prime minister said the leaderships of Pakistan and Palestine Liberation Organization are bound by strong ties of friendship.

On Afghanistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto reiterated that Pakistan supports the struggle of the Afghan people against the Kabul regime, because the Kabul regime is a symbol of the foreign intervention in Afghanistan.

The prime minister said Pakistan does not believe in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Expressing regret over the arms race in the region, she called for ending the conventional and nuclear weapons race.

On the Iran-Iraq dispute, the prime minister said we will use all our capabilities and influence to prevent a further escalation of war in the region.

Domestic Satellite Station Inaugurated
BK2507090389 Karachi DAWN in English
13 Jul 89 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, July 12: A high-power domestic satellite station (DOMSAT) has been established at Gwadar at a cost of Rs [rupees] 250 million.

The DOMSAT project was completed by the engineers of Telephone and Telegraph [T&T] Department.

It has started working through intelsat satellite on Indian Ocean.

According to the T&T sources here on Gwadar, the remote area of Baluchistan province, has now been connected on N.W.D. [expansion unknown] network, with the installation of DOMSAT.

The code number for dialling Gwadar is 0204. It was formally inaugurated by the Secretary [of] Communication, Mr H.N. Akhtar on Tuesday [12 July].

Afghan Interim Government Chief Meets Yaqub Khan
BK2007112289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] The president of the Afghan interim government, Professor Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, has termed his talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on the latest developments in Afghanistan as fruitful. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad today on his arrival from Saudi Arabia. Professor Mojaddedi later held a meeting with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Yaqub Khan Goes to Washington for Afghan Talks
BK2707113089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has gone to Washington where he is expected to meet American State Department officials to discuss the latest developments in Afghanistan ahead of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union in Stockholm on Monday. The foreign minister will preside over the meetings of the board of trustees of the Afghan Foundation of which he is the chairman.

Sri Lanka

'Further Action' Considered if No Indian Pullout
BK2707152589 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Sri Lanka is confident that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal issue could still be resolved between the two countries. Cabinet spokesman, minister for foreign affairs, and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, told newsmen this morning that the barriers have been narrowed down. The two basic issues are for India to recognize and accept Sri Lanka president as the commander in chief of all forces in the country, and secondly a cease-fire on both sides as far as the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and the IPKF are concerned. Once these two basic requirements of the Sri Lankan president are met, the issue could be resolved amicably through discussions.

In reply to a question, Mr Wijeratne said that in case the Indian forces were not withdrawn by Saturday the 29th and if the issue remains unresolved, the president would take a course of action which he would spell out.

Asked if Sri Lanka intended to refer the issue to the United Nations, the minister said that the Sri Lanka Government still felt it could be resolved. In case no withdrawal is made, then the situation would be reviewed and further action would be considered. He added that it may even be referred to the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and the Nonaligned Movement.

Mr Wijeratne further told newsmen that Sri Lanka had honored the India-Sri Lanka accord by holding the provincial council elections, appointing governors, paving the way for the provincial councils to function. Necessary legislation had also been passed, and even the devolution of power [to provincial assemblies] is in progress.

Foreign Minister Invited to India for Talks

BK2707155089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT
27 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 27 (AFP)—India has invited Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne to New Delhi for talks on the Indian military deployment in the island nation, diplomatic sources said Thursday.

The invitation, on behalf of India's external affairs minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, was handed to Mr Wijeratne by India's high commissioner Lakhan Lal Mehrotra Thursday, the sources said.

Mr Wijeratne was asked to go to New Delhi Friday and Saturday for "substantial talks" on the withdrawal from Sri Lanka of 45,000 Indian troops, the sources said. Indian diplomats here declined comment.

A senior Sri Lankan official acknowledged that the invitation was handed to Mr Wijeratne, but said: "I am not sure if our minister will go (to India)."

Mr Wijeratne could not be contacted independently. [passage omitted]

Wijeratne Asks for 'Token' Withdrawal of PKF

BK2807032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, has said that he will visit Delhi for discussions provided a token withdrawal of the PKF [peace-keeping force] is made and its offensive operations in the northeast of Sri Lanka are ceased, as he put it. The discussion are to include a timetable for the withdrawal of the PKF and other connected aspects of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Mr Wijeratne told our Colombo correspondent this was decided at a special meeting of

the Sri Lankan Cabinet late last night. He said offensive operations do not mean that the PKF cannot take defensive action. Mr Wijeratne said he may visit Delhi as soon as these two conditions are satisfied. No dates for the visit have been fixed.

It may be recalled that the Sri Lankan foreign minister was invited for talks to New Delhi on all issues, including the withdrawal of the PKF. Political circles in Colombo say that the Sri Lankan Cabinet's latest decision virtually puts off its 29 July deadline for the withdrawal of the PKF.

Meanwhile, life in most parts of the island country remained at a standstill following the curfew imposed from midnight late last night. It is to continue till tomorrow morning. Under the emergency regulations, the government has warned of stern action for the violation of the curfew.

As reported earlier, 10 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men were killed in a series of exchanges of fire at Point Pedro in Jaffna District on Wednesday [26 July]. One PKF soldier was also injured. Four LTTE men were captured in another operation in Kilinochchi District. It has now been confirmed that the LTTE was responsible for the mine blast near Kantalai in which 18 PKF soldiers were killed.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi last evening that the government has got no confirmation of reports emanating from Sri Lanka about the death of the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran. Speaking to newsmen he said we have reasons to believe the stories about the so-called death of Mr Prabhakaran have emanated from the LTTE itself. Motivation behind this is an attempt on their part to divert the people's attention from the killings of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran. He said these killings have hurt the image of the LTTE considerably. The spokesman also said that the manner in which these rumors have emanated is in keeping with the pattern of disinformation which the LTTE has hitherto followed.

Minister Offers To Mediate

BK2807075289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan rural industries minister, Mr S. Thondaman, has offered to mediate between India and Sri Lanka to sort out the issues between the two countries, including the withdrawal of the PKF [peacekeeping force]. In a letter written to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mr Thondaman has chartered out a set of proposals for consideration of New Delhi and Colombo to solve the problems through bilateral discussions. The letter was transmitted to New Delhi through the Indian High Commission in Colombo last night.

The minister told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, this afternoon that he took the initiative as he thought the set of proposals could be the meeting point between the two governments. He did not disclose the details of proposals but said after getting response from the Indian prime minister, he will use his influence with President Premadasa to sort issues out.

Further Reportage on Curfew, Unrest in Cities

Troops Occupy Radio, TV Stations

BK2807082889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT
28 Jul 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, July 28 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces moved into state-run radio and television stations here Friday as troops armed with shoot-on-sight orders enforced a curfew to head off possible anti-Indian rioting, officials here said.

The 29-hour curfew from midnight Thursday was to prevent protests and demonstrations to mark the second anniversary Saturday of an Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact which brought Indian troops into the island and led to an anti-Indian backlash, the officials said.

The militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which has dubbed the pact a sellout to Indian imperialism, had called for street marches to press its demand for an immediate withdrawal of the 45,000 Indian troops.

A government statement said security forces Friday "took control" of the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) and two television stations in what was seen as stepped up security in the Sri Lankan capital.

The JVP, which shot dead SLBC Chief Thevis Guruge here Sunday, told employees of the radio and television stations to quit or face the consequences after accusing the government-owned media of biased reporting.

Military officials here said troops and police, operating under sweeping emergency powers, were enforcing the curfew, but residents said it was not being observed in the Tamil-populated northeast where Indian troops are deployed.

There were no reports of violence Friday, though noisy but peaceful demonstrations were reported from some Buddhist temples in the Northwestern Province, calling for an Indian troop withdrawal.

Except for Army, Navy and police jeeps which patrolled the streets, Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, like most major cities and towns elsewhere in the country, looked like a ghost town.

The Indian High Commission here, situated on the sea-front, was being guarded by Sri Lankan police and troops and by Indian paramilitary forces flown in here Thursday.

In southern Galle town, even beggars were rounded up by soldiers Friday, residents said.

But the curfew was not imposed in the northeast, where shops and offices remained open, transport services were normal and people were moving about as usual, residents contacted by telephone said.

Security sources said there had been intelligence reports that the JVP, which is violently opposed to the government, was planning to bring out people on the streets Friday as part of its anti-Indian campaign begun Wednesday.

The JVP has declared a "curfew" Saturday and Sunday and warned that violators may be caught up in bomb blasts and crossfire. Previous "curfews" by the JVP have been successful.

Officials Thursday vowed not to let the JVP impose its "curfew" and warned that JVP supporters would be dealt in the "most ruthless manner."

India and Sri Lanka were meanwhile engaged in intense diplomatic exercises to end the deadlock over the Indian troops withdrawal which President Ranasinghe Premadasa had last month sought by July 29.

India declined to leave, demanding discussions on a timeframe for a pullout.

Sri Lankan officials said Mr Premadasa had "softened" and told India that his foreign minister, Ranjan Wijeratne, would visit New Delhi for talks if conditions set by him were satisfied.

These included an immediate token withdrawal of Indian troops and an end to the military offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful Tamil rebel group.

Since October 1987, Indian troops have been seeking to disarm the LTTE.

Colombo's conditions were conveyed orally late Thursday to Indian High Commission by S. Thondaman, a senior cabinet minister who earlier this month met Indian leaders in New Delhi.

Indian diplomats said New Delhi had responded to the conditions decided at an emergency cabinet session here Thursday. No details were available.

"We are expecting a positive response from India," said a senior official here. He added that Mr Premadasa would address his 16.5 million people Friday evening on television and radio.

Curfew Ignored in Some Towns

*BK2807094689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT
28 Jul 89*

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 28 (AFP)—Sporadic violence and anti-India demonstrations erupted in Sri Lanka Friday as people defied a 29-hour curfew affecting most parts of the country, security sources said.

Dozens of people defied the curfew and took to the streets in at least two towns, screaming anti-government and anti-India slogans and clashed with police and security personnel, the sources said.

Demonstrators at Kegalle, some 80 kilometers from here, opened fire at security forces, who fired back, injuring a civilian. No other details were available.

The protestors were demanding an immediate withdrawal of the 45,000 Indian troops stationed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northeast and the scrapping of a 1987 pact under which the soldiers are deployed, security sources said.

A similar demonstration was dispersed at Hakmana town, in the deep south, by troops.

Buddhist monks also staged demonstrations in some temples in the south, where the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) has its strongholds among the majority Sinhalese and overwhelmingly Buddhist community.

The country was otherwise reported to be peaceful under the curfew clamped by the government from midnight Thursday to ward off possible violence and protests planned by the JVP, security sources said.

The curfew is scheduled to end at five A.M. Saturday (2330 GMT Friday).

Security sources quoted intelligence reports as saying that the JVP had planned widespread street protests Friday to oppose India's military deployment in Sri Lanka.

The JVP dubs the accord, the second anniversary of which falls Saturday, a sellout to "Indian imperialism."

Security forces armed with shoot-on-sight orders patrolled Colombo, which looked like a ghost town Friday. Indian para-military forces, flown in late Thursday, were guarding the Indian High Commission here. [passage omitted]

Two Killed Defying Curfew

*BK2807101289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT
28 Jul 89*

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 28 (AFP)—At least two people were killed and several wounded Friday when police fired at crowds which defied an island-wide curfew in Sri Lanka, residents said.

One person was killed at central Kandy town and another in nearby Badulla when police opened fire at demonstrators demanding an immediate withdrawal of Indian troops from the island.

Several others were wounded, but no details were available.

Similar sporadic demonstrations, led by Buddhist monks, took place in about a dozen places across the country, security sources here said. [passage omitted]